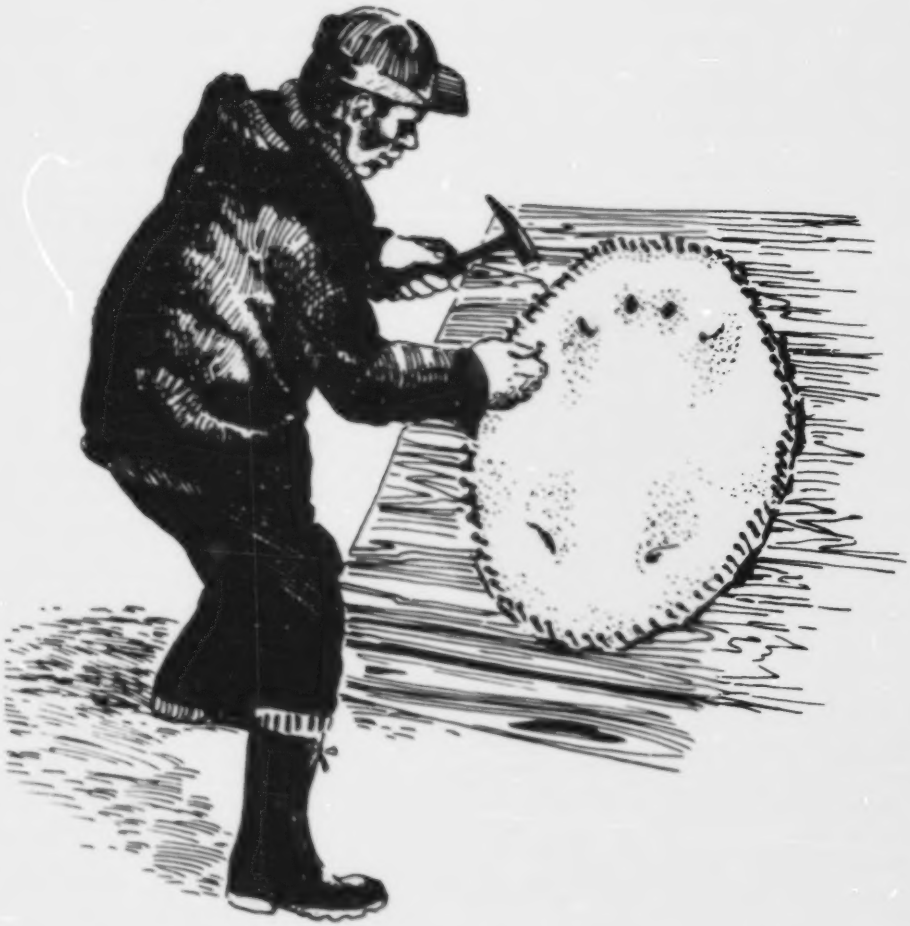
THE MANITOBA TRAPPERS' GUIDE

Revised Edition



Manitoba
Natural Resources

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NOTICE

Manitoba Regulations designate Registered Trapline Districts on all those portions of the Province of Manitoba shown bordered in black, the official plan of which is filed in the Office of the Director of Surveys and recorded as Plan 18824.

No person shall hunt or trap furbearing animals in or over the said districts without first having a Registered Trapline Permit or a Special Permit authorizing that person to hunt or trap in a designated portion of the said districts.

IS TRAPPING HUMANE?

The laws of nature dictate that only a limited number of each form of wildlife will survive the most critical time of year, which may be the cold winter months or the dry summer months, depending upon geographic location. The number that survive can be said to be the *carrying capacity* for any particular parcel of land. The only way to increase the carrying capacity for a given species is to actively manage the land — to improve the habitat, in other words. The number of animals exceeding the carrying capacity — the surplus — will die by the end of the critical period. What many people don't realize is that for some wildlife species, the surplus is as high as 80% of the animal peak population.

There are a number of mortality factors which, when combined, equal the surplus which must die every year. These factors include predation, disease, accidents, starvation, and dehydration. If the numbers taken by human predation are reduced, then more will die of other causes. So it is not a question of how many will die, it is a question of how they will die, a question of which mortality factors involve the least suffering, or which operate in the shortest time — in other words, which are most humane.

Predators usually kill quickly, although they are more concerned with preventing their prey from escaping than they are with being humane about it. However, many animals, if not taken by human predation, will die from some of nature's less humane options: disease and starvation. Animals that die from these causes experience more prolonged suffering than most individuals would care to witness. Instead of the comparatively swift death of a trapped animal being dispatched by a trapper, these animals die a slow death often taking weeks or months.

Therefore wildlife managers, concerned about the health and welfare of the living populations and the integrity of ecosystems, are often puzzled that some individuals oppose regulated trapping on humanitarian grounds. If trapping were eliminated, certain wildlife populations would exceed the ability of the habitat to sustain them, causing damage to the vegetation and forcing population reductions by starvation and disease.

PREFACE

Much of the material contained in this Guide is not new. It has been gathered by personal contact with many trappers who have spent years gaining valuable experience in the harvest of furs by the trial and error method, and much has been gleaned from the pages of books and pamphlets, all of which, compiled here in ready reference form, we trust will be of help to you whether a beginner or a seasoned veteran. We welcome any further comments or information you may wish to send us and gratefully acknowledge the fine co-operation already so freely given.

Trapping, as an art or profession, like many other ways of life, has undergone great change. The wilderness trapper who in former times spent the greater part of a year on the trapline, living off the land, is now almost a thing of the past. There was the day when every farm boy had a string of traps from which he derived certain pleasures and "pin money".

Changing legislation, advancing civilization and economic structures have all contributed to this change. We can foresee there may well be more changes.

Be that as it may, in our Canadian way of life there is growing interest in conservation and what it means, which fostered and encouraged can mean only one thing — that there will always be hunting, fishing and trapping for those who enjoy it. To add that extra bit of assurance, this booklet attempts to show YOU how you may enjoy the privilege of trapping, while reaping the greatest return for your efforts, hopeful that as a Canadian you will pledge yourself to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of our country . . . its soils and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife.

—Bob Burns

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National Wildlife Federation

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And the many individuals whose contribution helped to make the contents of this booklet more useful.

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SHOULD WE TRAP?

Trapping has come under fire with increasing pressure from many well-meaning people. Of particular concern has been the leg-hold trap and as a result, wildlife supporters sometimes find themselves at odds with each other. Trapping therefore has become a charged emotional issue where instead common sense could have more easily continued to indicate a better way.

In our free land the decision of whether one may trap should be that of the individual. It is vital to wise resource use to unite all interested in natural resource protection whether they are consumptive or non-consumptive users. Birdwatchers, hunters, nature photographers and trappers have common interests and should therefore work together to protect and enhance wildlife habitat — the real key to wildlife abundance. If various special-interest groups separate and fight among themselves, little habitat will be protected and everyone will lose, especially wildlife.

Thinning out furbearer populations has for years been accomplished by trapping. This is because Wildlife Managers recognize that regulated trapping is the most efficient and practical means of reducing surplus populations of many species. Trapping is an appropriate means of properly regulating their numbers and permitting man to utilize the surplus. Trapping is an effective means of achieving the goals of wildlife management.

The goal of trappers should be: to be as humane as possible by using the best trapping method and the proper size and type of trap. The careless trapper causes most of the animal suffering that people find objectionable. Good trappers respect the rights of the landowner, check their traps more often, leave enough animals for the future and vigorously support Natural Resource Officers in the prosecution of wildlife violators.

That is what we see. The choice and the decision is yours — may it be a wise one.

TRAPLINE OWNERSHIP AND TRANSFER

A registered trapper does not own the land upon which he traps, and all improvements are the property of the Crown in the right of the Province of Manitoba. This is done to protect the interests of trapping communities by preventing traplines from falling into the hands of speculators. It keeps sale values within the means of the youth of the community. Policy procedures involve:

1. A registered trapper must notify the Department of Natural Resources when he plans to quit the line, giving full details of the equipment involved and the value.
2. The Department will post the line for thirty (30) days as vacant. Interested applicants can meet the trapper and discuss terms of transfer.
3. Persons interested in these lines should apply to the Regional Office or the local Conservation Officer to show their qualifications.
4. The approved applicant must make an agreement with the retiring trapper for the transfer of the trapline and equipment.
5. The matter of equipment and price involved are to be settled between the new trapper and the retiring trapper. On the payment of the necessary fee a registered trapline permit will be issued to the new trapper.
6. First preference shall go to local resident trappers, second preference to trappers from other trapline groups, third preference to a qualified Manitoba trapper.

YOUR TRAPPING LICENCE

A Registered Trapline Permit, or T.L.P., as it is often called, does not mean you have purchased the animals, but rather that you have purchased, on a one year lease basis, the privilege of trapping these animals.

In addition to the right to trap animals, it reserves an area for you in which no other person may trap, and gives you the opportunity to practice wild fur farming, which will ensure the highest fur populations at all times, while securing the largest possible crop.

All persons wishing to trap must first obtain a trapping licence.

INFORMATION ON THE REGISTERED TRAPLINE PERMIT

The front of the registered trapline permit shows the number of the permit, name and address of the trapper as well as:

(a) the trapline group or section and number of the trapline area in which the permittee may trap;
(b) serving a particular purpose in specifying special conditions of operation;
(c) the removal of surplus animal populations; and
(d) designating the terms under which a helper or special permittee may trap.

Special Fur Crops – This column provides for the harvest and disposal of the pelts of fur bearers for which special protection is required, such as a limited quota, the particular fur bearer that is being dealt within this special manner, the reduced or closed season and the tagging of such fur bearer and providing for the inspection of pelts.

The front of the permit also acts as a receipt showing what fees have been paid.

The trapline permit is an important operating document to the trapper and to the Department. It should be carried by the trapper at all times and shown to the fur dealer each time furs are presented for sale.

If any detail recorded on the trapline permit is not correct, this should be brought to the attention of the issuing officer and corrected immediately. Likewise, if for any reason a mid-season change is made in trapline operating conditions or the status of the trapper, it should also be noted by the issuing officer and the permit initialled.

SHIPPING FURS

Your trapping licence or registered trapline permit allows you to sell your furs to any licensed fur dealer. To ship furs outside Manitoba an export permit is required and may be obtained free of charge from your local Conservation Officer. Required royalties must be paid before furs leave the province.

Small amounts of fur can be shipped parcel post. Large amounts should be shipped by express.

A paper container is satisfactory when shipping fur by mail, but when shipping large amounts of fur proper bags should be used to prevent damage to pelts while in transit.

Generally, express charges should be prepaid on shipments, even though many buyers will pay express charges and deduct the amount from the sale price of the fur.

TRAPS: CORRECT SIZE AND TYPE

Most animal suffering and unnecessary fur loss can be avoided if trappers use the correct size and type of trap for the job. 'Wring-offs' and 'chew-offs' are crippling and cause great stress to animals. They are also costly for the trapper and should no longer be taken for granted. This situation can be avoided by using humane trapping methods — in other words, don't use a leg trapping set where a humane set can readily do the job. Most animals can now be taken with Conibear traps. While it is still difficult to take fox, coyote and timber wolf in humane traps, much experimental trapping using humane methods is now underway with these animals.

Here are the humane traps designed for the following animals:

Conibear #120	— Squirrel, weasel, muskrat, marten
Conibear #220	— Mink, fisher, raccoon
Conibear #330	— Lynx, beaver, otter, wolverine

If using leg-hold sets — (recommended for following animals):

#2 and #3	—	Coyote, fox
#4½	—	Timber wolf

TYPES OF TRAPS

Live animal traps, designed to capture animals alive and unharmed, are available in various models and sizes, from Tomahawk Live Trap Company, Box 323, Tomahawk, Wisconsin, U.S.A., 54487.

Care of equipment should be an important part of a trapper's program. Traps are expensive equipment; proper care can prolong their usefulness. The following suggestions could very well be the difference between success and failure.

CLEANING TRAPS

To remove grease from new traps place them in a tub of clean water to which you have added a few handfulls of wood ashes. Gently boil the water for 30 minutes skimming off grease as it rises to the surface. When no more grease rises take out the traps and hang them to dry for a few days. This will allow them to collect a thin layer of rust which will help them to take metal darkener that much easier.

Clean traps are important, especially in taking the more cunning animals. Here are a few simple steps for cleaning both old and new traps using local material.

Materials: 10 gallons clean water, log chips, alder bark, spruce tips.

Method: Mix the materials in a tub, place a nail between the jaws of each trap to ensure that all parts of the trap jaw are exposed, throw the traps into the tub and bring the water to a gentle boil. Boil for 30 minutes. This will clean the traps, darken them and even give them a bit of natural forest odor.

When the traps are removed from the fluid, be sure to handle them with a hook to prevent human odor being left on them. Hang the traps in a dry, sheltered, airy place until needed.

If you want to wax your traps to prevent further "iron smell", this should be done at the same time as the cleaning takes place.

Material: Waxing Mixture: 4 lbs. (1.80 kg) paraffin wax, 1 lb. (0.45 kg) bees wax, 1 bean-size piece of spruce gum (gum toughens wax so that it does not chip off too easily).

Method: Heat the wax in a pail until it is quite hot and well mixed together.

Remove a trap from the cleaning fluid and let it dry. Dip the trap completely in the waxing mixture so that all parts have been covered. When the trap and the mixture are quite hot only a very thin film of wax will stick to the trap. Again, a hook should be used to handle the traps to prevent human odor from mixing into the wax.

Hang the traps in a sheltered spot until needed.

LURES

Scents and baits are lures used to attract animals into traps. The scent is more important than the bait because it lasts longer and creates greater curiosity on the part of the animal being hunted.

Mink musk and honey mixed together makes a lure which attracts most animals. Mink musk sacks are located at the anus. To prepare this lure, take the musk glands from several mink and either press the musk into one pound of liquid honey or place the entire gland into one pound of warmed liquid honey. The warm honey will help to release the musk from the whole glands. Stir the honey to ensure that the musk is well mixed in.

Cheap ten-cent perfume makes a good lure for ermine, and a few drops in a spruce-bough-cubby will soon pay off in ermine pelts.

Animal urine, especially from foxes and coyotes, has proven an effective lure for trapping these species. (This can be collected from dead animals.) A few drops sprinkled around a set often means the difference between a catch and a miss.

Orange peel is good muskrat lure. Carrots also attract muskrats. Where these are not available the muskrat musk glands, collected in spring, are as effective as any lure.

Lynx are usually lured quite easily with beaver castor, but we now have the recipe for a much more effective lynx lure. This recipe has been recommended by veteran trapper Ralph Bryenton of Herb Lake and is prepared as follows:

Rot lynx livers in a jar all summer. Take a pint of this rotted liver and add six drops of Oil of Aniseed, six drops of Valerian, small bit of powdered Catnip and six drops of lynx urine. Throw in about five tablespoonsful of powdered lynx droppings and one finely chopped beaver castor. Mix well. Use on a hay ball. This is one of the best lynx lures invented.

To use this lure, put a daub of it on a golf-ball-sized hay ball, tie it to a stick with a string that has been saturated in beaver oil and place it at the back of the cubby in an upright position. This will lure lynx into a pen set with either snare or trap.

Another very good lynx lure is a mixture of beaver castor, muskrat musk and black poplar buds, picked just before they open in the spring.

When making lures remember that castor taken from pregnant spring-time female beaver is weaker than that from other beaver.

A good mink lure which also attracts most other animals can be made from fish oil. To make this oil, chop up several fish and place them in a jar for the summer. The jar should be located in a sunny spot. Cover the jar with a glass lid to prevent flies from laying eggs in the fish. In fall drain off the oil. A few drops placed at the back of each set will aid in luring animals.

An excellent fox lure is lard cracklings. This is the fatty tissue of pork or beef from which the lard has been rendered. After making the set, scatter a few cracklings around in such a manner that the fox must cross and recross the trap while retrieving the lure.

A very good coyote lure can be made as follows: 5 lbs. (2.25 kg) rotted down horsemeat; 20 drops Tonquin (Asiatic) musk; enough glycerine to make a paste.

This is especially good in the cold winter months. By adding fish oil and coyote urine you will have a lure good the year round. (Asiatic musk is now made synthetically and can be ordered from drug stores.)

Fish oil with beaver castor makes an attractive lure for fisher. Fisher are generally trapped in pens and a rabbit makes good bait.

Another good fisher lure is: fish oil (1 pint) (0.57 $\acute{L}$), muskrat musk (2 glands), Oil of Aniseed (10 drops), Asofetida (10 drops).

A **wolf, coyote and fox lure** can be made from four ground up beaver castors, four (springtime) muskrat glands, six drops of Aniseed oil, around half a drop of skunk gland, a good handful of powdered wild catnip, mink glands (about two if small ones), a few blades of green grass, around four deer glands (from the legs) and about five pounds of meat (deer or similar).

The meat is ground up or chopped into chunks. Put this into a wooden or glass container big enough to hold four gallons. Break or grind up the glands and mix them with the catnip and add to meat. If it doesn't mix well, add just enough clean fresh water to cover. This should then be put aside, covered with a screen, and left to work for the summer. Check it once in awhile to see it doesn't get too dry. When it has settled into a well-mixed mass, it can be put into jars, where it will keep for a long time. A bit of this lure will bring coyotes, foxes and wolves straight in, and will attract other animals as well.

Experiment with lures made from animal glands and you will be surprised how well these work. The big trick is not so much in setting the trap, but in creating a lure to bring animals into the trap.

* * *

Many methods have been devised by man to take fur bearers. The habits and cunning of animals may vary from place to place so that a method which works well in one area may not produce as well in another. This is particularly true with the more cunning animals such as wolf, coyote, fox, mink and otter. In areas that are more densely populated by humans, wild animals are under much heavier hunting pressure and must either develop superior cunning to evade mankind or perish. In more isolated areas where the human population is scattered, wild animals have not been forced to develop this higher degree of cunning and can possibly be taken more easily. This does not mean that animals in isolated places are stupid and easy to catch; they still tax the wisdom of the trapper at every turn.

In this booklet you will find many trap-set illustrations. We know that such sets are effective because they have been tested on experimental traplines. As soon as you look at these illustrations you will note things that you would change — your way could well be the better way. Tips come our way because of our contact with trappers throughout Manitoba and other provinces. Here are a few pointers that may help you to take fur more easily and in less time. Enquiries may be made to: Manitoba Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Branch, Trapper Education, Box 24, 1495 St. James Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W9.

ALONG THE TRAPLINE WITH RALPH BRYENTON

Trapping, whether for pleasure of for profit, is not an easy occupation; the following comments and suggestions by an experienced trapper may spell the difference between success and failure — follow them.

Foxes are easily taken on first ice by setting traps on muskrat houses. These traps should be anchored to a post concealed in the house. They do not need bait, although a fox dropping or two laid on the muskrat house will sometimes help. A natural step is often found on one side of the house where a fox or coyote will usually step. If the step is not there you can easily make it with moss. Be sure the trap is high enough from the ice so that a few inches of slush will not freeze it down. Cover the trap lightly by tucking moss around the pan but not over the jaws. Once you get a fox in a set like this, reset the trap on the mound and you may get another fox, coyote or mink attracted by the fox odor.

Set traps at old beaver dams and bait with duck wings or fish. Fox and lynx like to cross on beaver dams; they get used to crossing here in summer and keep on following this habit when freeze-up comes.

Otter and mink come out at beaver dams, and if otter signs are noticeable no bait is necessary. A trap set where the otter leaves droppings is better not baited and is good for anything that comes along, as all animals like to investigate where otters have been working. Be sure to fasten the number four otter trap solidly, as a trapped otter is a fierce fighter and might take trap, drag and all under the ice.

Around the lakes and sloughs where cattails grow you will often find gaps between clumps of cattail or between shore and clumps of cattail. Hunt these places up in early fall and put in willows to anchor snare or trap at such openings. Foxes and coyotes will travel the ice and are "suckers" for sets made in these openings where snares seem to work best. A fox or coyote will seldom go around a tree or grass clump on the ice if there is an opening on the shore side.

Set around old beaver lodges or on other natural openings where fox, coyote, otter, mink and lynx like to visit. Again, snares are best in such spots for the larger animals.

When you set a trap at an old beaver lodge, set a snare or two on close-by rabbit runs or natural openings. You will be surprised how often you will catch a coyote, fox or lynx that has been attracted.

Save a few of your ducks for fox and mink bait along lake shores and creeks. There is no better bait, and if they are a bit "ripe" it is just so much the better. This bait is first rate when set at old beaver lodges.

If the old dead lodge is easily cut into, a set inside it is perfect for mink and otter. You will likely get some muskrats in this set too but they are always worth money and their carcasses make excellent bait. When you set inside old dead beaver lodges you do not need bait as the scent of water and lodge are attraction enough.

Holes found under overhanging clay banks along creeks make splendid mink sets and duck wings or pieces of fish placed well back inside will often bring fox and lynx too.

Cracks in rocks along the lake shore should also be set for mink.

Foxes like to visit reefs and islands and a trap set in a depression on a rock point or reef will often stay clear all winter. If the trap is carefully placed and bits of fish or rabbit scattered around, it makes a good set.

Lynx are the easiest to catch of all the big long-haired fur bearers, but if a fellow doesn't know the tricks they can roam all around the traps and snares and never get caught. One of the best sets for lynx is the tree cubby set and whether set with trap or snare it produces plenty of lynx. It works very well with the hayball lure on a stick well rubbed in beaver castor. Always set a snare on a path near a lynx cubby by setting the cross pole method, and you will often get two lynx.

It generally pays off to make two sets when setting for the larger animals because they often travel in pairs.

For squirrels and weasels it is generally best to set in pens. Digging pens at the base of spruce or willow is easy and attracts both animals. The hole you scratch between the roots can easily be covered up with rotten tree trunks or broken poles. You should leave no opening for the animals except over the trap. Always build your weasel pens so as to force him into the trap. Bait the back of the pen with rabbit. Rabbit seems to be the best bait for squirrels as well.

In setting for weasel along lakes and creeks use fish bait with a bit of beaver oil. This often attracts mink and lynx. By using No. 120 Conibear traps, you can easily hold the mink.

Sets made with No. 330 Conibear will take lynx after they have set their travel patterns.

* * *

The science of trapping is to make sets appear as natural as possible while at the same time making them animal attractive, by using scents and baits. Some very good sets are:

MINK CUBBIES

The wise trapper builds and baits mink cubbies during summer. These can be built of logs or rocks, in tunnels, or against trees. Mink cubbies produce better if built near water. Start baiting these cubbies in August using plenty of fish or other natural food. The animals will then make a habit of visiting them. When freeze-up comes, the trapper will not have to hunt for mink tracks but will have the animals visiting the cubby

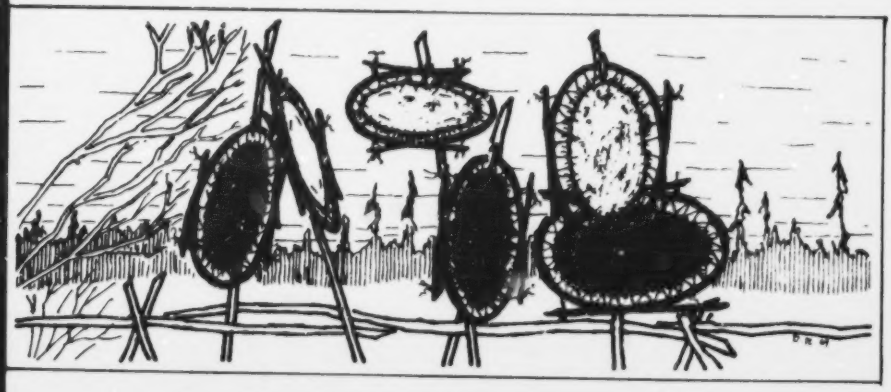
locations regularly. Clean traps set in cubbies will very soon reward the trapper for time spent in building these producers. These also attract other animals, especially lynx.

In Manitoba there are many small commercial fishing operations in progress. Trappers in these localities will find plenty of rough fish with which to bait cubbies.

A small hollow log stuffed lightly with leaves, grass and feathers makes a fine lure if placed in a tunnel during summer. Mice will naturally use this log as a nesting place. A trap placed in the log in winter may produce mink, weasel or other small fur bearers.

On our experimental trapline cubby building and baiting certainly attracts animals, particularly mink. Give it a try. Many of our older trappers have found the animals actually waiting for them to trap. Be sure to try the Bill Dahl cubby shown in this booklet.

In baiting the cubby use plenty of fish. Whitefish and Tullibee seem better than Northern Pike, Mullet, and Walleyed Pike, but any kind will do.



BEAVER

Selective Beaver Cropping

Generally speaking there is no method of trapping to ensure that we will take only large adult male beaver unless there are only large adult male beaver in the area. There is a method, however, which tends to produce more adult beaver than juveniles. We are concerned with the best beaver pelts, which are taken under ice, and this method deals with that kind of trapping.

Kit beaver under ice seldom stray far from the lodge and the browse pile (feed pile). Setting close to the lodge, therefore, means taking more kits. You will take fewer kits by setting farther upstream from the lodge. This is not a hard and fast rule but it usually applies.

In spring when adult females are heavy with young, or immediately after they have given birth to young, they will stay closer to the lodge, and anyone trapping at the lodge during this period may be certain of taking the female. The only way to avoid this is to set farther from the lodge.

THE SNARE AS A FUR PRODUCER

The snare is responsible for taking much of our Manitoba fur crop. Its use is legal in Registered Trapline areas only. In the north, possibly because of the weight and transportation factor, trappers appear to use the snare more than elsewhere. At the present time the snare is used mostly in taking beaver and lynx, although when fur price makes it worthwhile, many coyote and fox are also snared, as are squirrel and mink.

The northern trapper has become expert in the use of the snare in taking beaver, probably because the cost and weight of snares are small compared to steel traps.

More than 100 snares can be made from a 50 foot (15 m) roll of 19-strand wire. These are cut from 32 to 36 inches (80-90 cm) long and the cables unravelled to give a snare of two strands only. This gives eight two-ply snares and one three-ply snare for each length of wire at small cost.

Naturally, the two and three-ply snare is used under water where the animals can be drowned. An animal caught above ground in a two-ply snare would probably break it by struggling. This seldom happens in beaver snaring under water.

A much easier system of making beaver snares is to cut them from a reel of fox snare wire. They do not need to be unravelled and, of course, you will not produce as many snares from a roll as by the old Northern method.

Snares are estimated to do about three per cent damage to furs and this appears small when compared with damage caused by other means such as shooting and careless handling.

The Indian trapper normally unravels the wire, makes the snare, rolls it up, then throws it in the fire to remove the temper. This helps the snare to retain position and shape. It also allows the snare slip-loop to close and tighten like a lock when pressure is applied by the animal. Snares made in this manner should not be used more than once or twice. When making the slip-loop put the wire twice around instead of once and this will make its own lock.

In using the snare it is always set with a loop of about 10 inches (25 cm) diameter to make sure the beaver gets at least one front leg through the loop. This prevents his backing out.

Remember the snare is legal on Registered Trapline areas only.

Now some comments about two of our more popular fur bearers, the ermine and the squirrel. The young trapper would do well to study the following pages carefully.

ERMINE (WEASEL)

Some of our most easily trapped and pelted small fur bearers are roughly handled because they are small and bring small prices. Thousands of weasels are trapped each year, and a large percentage of pelts are damaged because of poor handling.

Fur dealers call all weasels "ermine" when their fur becomes white in winter. There are three species of weasel found in Manitoba:

1. Ermine (or Short-tailed Weasel)
2. Least Weasel
3. Long-tailed Weasel

Ermine or Short-tailed Weasel and the mouse-sized Least Weasel are found almost throughout the province. The Least Weasel is scarce and is only found on some traplines. The Long-tailed Weasel (most times called Prairie Long-tail) is generally found in the prairie and parkland regions.

SQUIRREL

Another fur bearer often poorly handled is the Red Squirrel. Because of rough handling of these pelts the loss to trappers is as much as 50 per cent or more.

There are three species of squirrel in Manitoba:

1. Gray Squirrel
2. Red Squirrel
3. Northern Flying Squirrel

The Gray Squirrel is found at some places in the south, mostly along the oak bush that grows near rivers, and in some cities and towns. They spread into Manitoba during the last few years. There are not many here.

The Hudson Bay Red Squirrel is the one we see almost all places and the one most often trapped.

Flying Squirrels are found in most wooded areas of the province. Their pelt is of no market value.

Remember – a year with lots of spruce cones generally means there will be lots of squirrels.

PREPARATION OF ERMINE AND SQUIRREL PELTS

Ermine and squirrels are very easy to pelt. With a sharp knife cut across the rump of the animal from one hind foot pad to the other hind foot pad. Work the pelt loose from the hind legs with your fingers. Slice across the pelt at the anus. Do not cut the anus itself or you will release oil and scent. Next, work the bone from the tail. Pull the pelt down over the flanks. Sometimes the flesh at the flank wants to stick to the pelt, but this can be rubbed free with the end of the thumb or by careful cutting with a knife. Continue to pull the pelt downwards past the shoulders. Care should be used in pulling over the shoulders because too much pressure will sometimes tear the pelt. The flesh on the underside of the shoulder will stick to the pelt and this should be cut free with a knife. When this is cut it will reveal the elbows of the front leg. Force the forefinger between the elbow and the pelt and pull the pelt off the foreleg. The pelt may be cut free at the ankle or torn free at the paw. Repeat this with the other foreleg. Skin carefully around the ears, eyes, lips and nose.

Ermine and squirrel pelts dry rapidly and they should be placed on proper drying boards (stretchers) as soon as pelting is completed. These drying boards should be made from templates supplied by the Department. They help in proper pelt preparation, giving uniformity which could mean greater value.

When the pelt is on the drying board fur-in, a tack at each hind foot and one at the tail base will hold it in place. Excess fat and flesh should now be carefully removed. Blood stains should be removed by light washing with clean water and a mild soap.

Pelts should remain on the drying boards until completely dry to prevent wrinkling after being removed. Wrinkling spoils the appearance of a pelt, and reduces size and value. Use a belly board as you do for mink. This allows for easier removal of the pelt from the board when dry. Dry in a place away from heat.

When the pelt is fully dried, remove it carefully from the drying board to prevent tearing.

Store pelts in a cool dry place. Lay them flat or hang on strings strung through the eye holes. Do not fold the pelt because this may cause cracks and always leads to a poor appearance.

It is not necessary to split open the tails of ermine and squirrel but the tail bone should always be removed.

FORMS OF DAMAGE IN FURS

Many forms of damage of fur pelts are recognized by the fur trade. These are classified and determine the grade. The forms of damage which also determine value most commonly found are as follows:

1. **Speared or clipped** – when guard hair or underfur is missing because of knife cuts or when fur is eaten by mice before the animal is taken from the trap.
2. **Tainted** – this is hair-slip of guard hair and underfur and is one of the worst forms of damage. It is caused by rotting of the pelt before it is dressed.
3. **Loose** – top hair coming out due to exposed roots in early-caught skins or from scraping too deeply during fleshing of the pelt.

4. **Bitten** – usually found in beaver and muskrats and generally caused by late trapping in spring, thought to be an indication of food deficiencies and over-population.

5. **Snared** – fur rubbed off pelt by snare wire.

6. **Scored** – path of bullet, spear, hook or knife through fur, leaving a long, bald, bloodstained mark.

7. **Badly shot** – peppered by shotgun or large rifle. Bad bites are often listed in this class.

8. **Badly sewn** – where accidental cuts and leg holes are poorly sewn or where bad damage has caused much sewing.

9. **Burnt** – pelt cracked owing to fast drying beside a fire, in hot sun or wind. Also caused by grease left on pelt.

10. **Flat** – guard hair lying flat due to lack of underfur, found mostly in early, unprime pelts.

11. **Low** – not fully developed guard hair or underfur, generally found in early, unprime pelts.

12. **Rough** – heavy rubbed skins, late-caught.

13. **Rubbed** – guard hair rubbed off, open and weak, late-caught.

14. **Complete** – fully covered with guard hairs, usually found in early, unprime pelts.

15. **Immature** – skin taken too early with less than usual growth of guard hair and underfur, generally shows weak guard hair, short in development.

16. **Overgrown or springy** – usually found in late-caught skins when the underfur begins to fall out or has already fallen out.

17. **Coarse** – pelts hard to the touch, late-caught.

18. **Overstretch** – stretching the pelt beyond normal size. Thins the leather and gives flat, weak appearance.

19. **Understretch** – stretching the pelt smaller than the normal size causing wrinkles and sloppy appearance.

20. **Singed** – guard hair bent or hooked – most common in mink and otter when pelt is affected by warm weather and bright sunlight. Sometimes caused by excessive fingering of pelt and by heat drying.

The name **bitten** (See No. 4) is often applied to early-caught mink, which shows pairs of tiny black marks. Although these may not always be caused by bites, they have been given this name by the fur trade.

Note:

Shooting or spearing of beaver, muskrat and otter is illegal. The many forms of serious damage caused by bullets or shot should be proof in itself of the terrific loss that can result.

PELT PREPARATION

The following pages, with illustrations, deal particularly with the process of removing the pelt from the animal, and explain in detail the proper method of handling your furs.

SKINNING

There are two recognized ways of skinning or pelting animals, and these are called "cased" and "open".

"Cased" pelts are removed from the animal by slitting the pelt across the rump and pulling it down over the animal's head the way we take off a pullover sweater. All pelts, except beaver, bear and seal are prepared "cased".

(See Figure 1 for "cased" pelt).

FIG 1

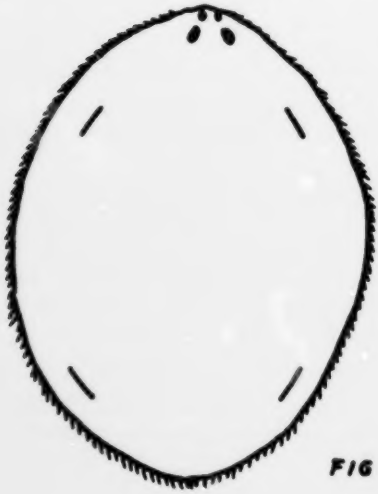


FIG 2

"Open" pelts are removed from the animal by slitting the hide from chin to tail on the belly side and skinning it back one side at a time. It is the custom to slit open the legs of the bear, but the legs of the beaver are always pulled through and never slit open.

(See Figure 2 for "open" pelt).

The following step-by-step procedure illustrates the proper method of handling a "cased" pelt (mink) and an "open" pelt (beaver).

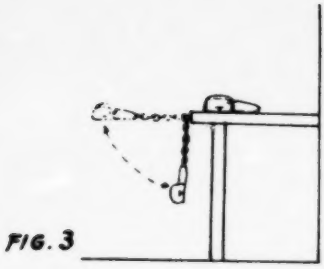


FIG. 3

SKINNING THE CASED PELT

The skinning cuts are very important to properly tailor a pelt and it is wise to have a good set-up to ensure that all pelts are cut properly and alike.

Fasten a small steel trap firmly to a solid support. Place the right hind foot of a mink in the trap and it will be held solidly, yet remain movable while the animal is being skinned. (See Figure 3.) First cut the front feet off at the top of the foot pad. The next cut is made by holding the left hind foot of the mink straight out towards you and making the cut from foot pad to foot pad along the back legs just in front of the vent on the belly side. (See Figure 4.)

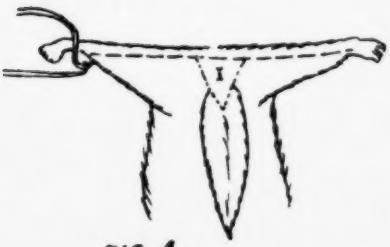


FIG. 4

Take the right hind foot of the mink out of the trap and put the left hind foot of the mink into the trap and hold the tail out towards you. Cut down the tail past the vent to meet the first cut. Now slice down the opposite side of the vent and the pelt is open with no fur being wasted and the vent not cut open to free scent and oil glands, which would be harmful to the pelt. (See Figure 4.)

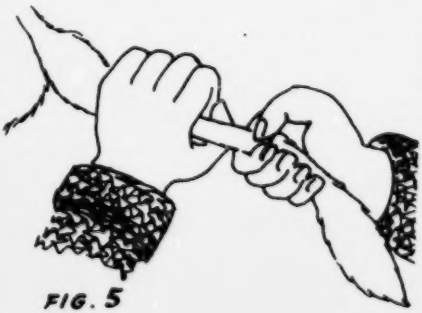


FIG. 5

Next work the legs and tail out. This is done by simply pushing down with thumb and fingers between the skin and carcass near the base of the tail on each side and moved outward toward the foot, separating the skin from the carcass in quick, easy movements. The skin is pulled down the hind legs to the foot and cut off to leave the claws on the carcass.

(Skin out the feet of bears and wolves leaving the claws on, flesh well as these pelts are often used as rugs.)

The bone is then pulled out of the mink tail with finger and thumb (as in Figure 5), or with a wooden, easily made tool (as in Figure 6A and B).

Next the mink is placed with both hind feet in the trap and the pelt pulled down over the head as the front legs are pulled through. Skin carefully around the head cutting the ears off close to the skull and using great care not to cut the eyes and lips and the pelt comes free.

FIG. 6

Showing removal of tail bone and boning tool

FLESHING THE CASED PELT

After the pelt has been taken from the carcass it should be cooled until the fat has stiffened or hardened. Do not throw it in a pile with other pelts. It is best left to hang from the nose, flesh-out, where it is not touching other pelts. Take the pelts from the cool place only when they are fleshed so that they do not become too warm again.

If they are to be left cooling for more than forty-eight hours they should be folded or rolled with the fur out as soon as they are cooled. To freeze with flesh out will dry the leather not covered with fat and will leave it white when the rest of the pelt is fleshed.

Fleshing the skin properly is very important as is each part of the dressing, and to do the job properly a good set-up will save time and work. A round fleshing pole is good because it can be turned to get at any part of the pelt. Too much weight of the scraper on a narrow strip of the pelt, when using the round pole, will cut the roots of the fur, and this fur will fall out when the pelt is tanned. This kind of damage happens when the trapper tries to hurry or does not know of the damage that can result.

The nose of the fleshing board should have a nail sticking out one-half inch over which the nose of the skin can be placed. Many types of fleshing tools are used, but for the trapper in the bush an ordinary dull table knife does a good job and is dull enough not to cut the skin.

The skin is slipped over the board and the nose hung over the nail. The tail is slit open on the underside and fleshed first. This can be done with a spoon. A sharp knife can be used, but you must be careful not to cut the leather. It is important that all fat be cleaned from the tail because if any is left on it will get into the fur.

Many trappers like to flesh a strip around the skirt (the end of the pelt) after fleshing the tail so that this fat is taken off before it softens and gets into the fur.

Next, start at the head and flesh a strip down over the body near a front leg. The pelt is turned on the board until the whole pelt has been fleshed. A sharp knife or scissors can be used to trim around the lips and ears.

A clean, dry rag can be used as needed to take up extra loose fat. It will help to give the hands a sure grip.

DIRECTIONS ON USE OF DRYING BOARD TEMPLATES

Patterns of drying boards, which have been approved by the fur trade, are on hand for your use at each trapping centre. At trappers' meetings the use of these patterns has been fully explained and demonstrated; however, where you may be in need of extra help in making use of these patterns, each Fur Manager and Trapline Officer is fully qualified to assist you in their use.

In addition adhesive-backed patterns are now available free of charge to Manitoba trappers.

A sample of the Summerberry Muskrat pelt stretcher has also been left in care of the above persons and is available for copy by any trapper who may wish to do so. Reproducing these and all other stretchers in quantity might be considered as a community project.

Measurements given on the face of templates refer to the drying board and not to the pelt.

THE ADHESIVE-BACKED TEMPLATE AND ITS USE

This template was designed to provide an easier way by which trappers may dry raw fur pelts to the size and shape desired by our Manitoba Fur Houses.

On each template is printed information regarding the specie of fur, size of stretcher to be produced, and cross line measurements. The templates need not be returned.

When using the templates please refer to these instructions:

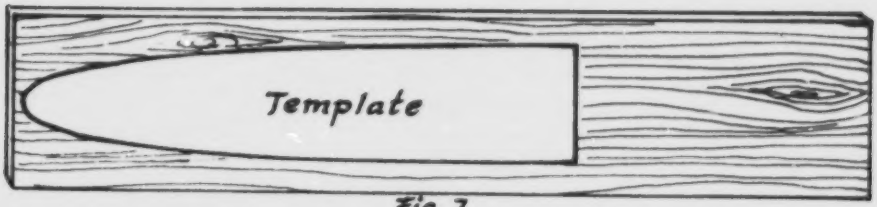


Fig. 7

1. Select the template you wish to use.
2. Cut around the template with scissors or knife.

Fig. 8

3. Check the stretcher measurements given on the template then select or make a board large enough for the job, then draw a line lengthwise along its centre.

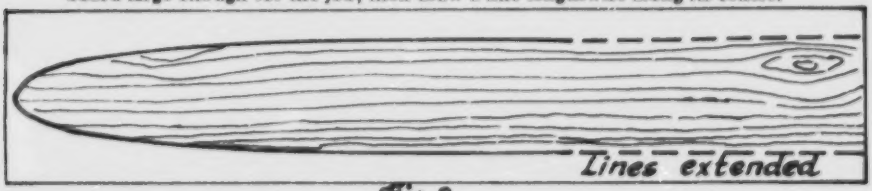


Fig. 9

4. Wet the adhesive back of the template then apply it to the board so that the centre line of the template lies on the centre line of the board with the nose point at one end of the board.
5. If the finished stretcher is to be longer than the template then a straight edge should be laid along the outer edge of the applied template and the stretcher outline marked in a continuing line from the template base onward.

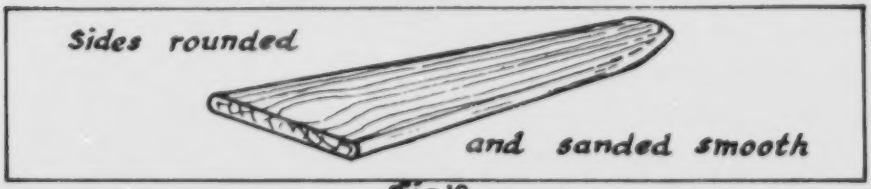


Fig. 10

6. When you are sure you have all marking complete and accurate and the template is well dried to the board, cut away all of the board which lies outside the outline. Round the edges of the stretcher and it is ready for use. This finished stretcher can then be used as a pattern for further stretchers of this size.

STRETCHING OR BOARDING THE CASED PELT

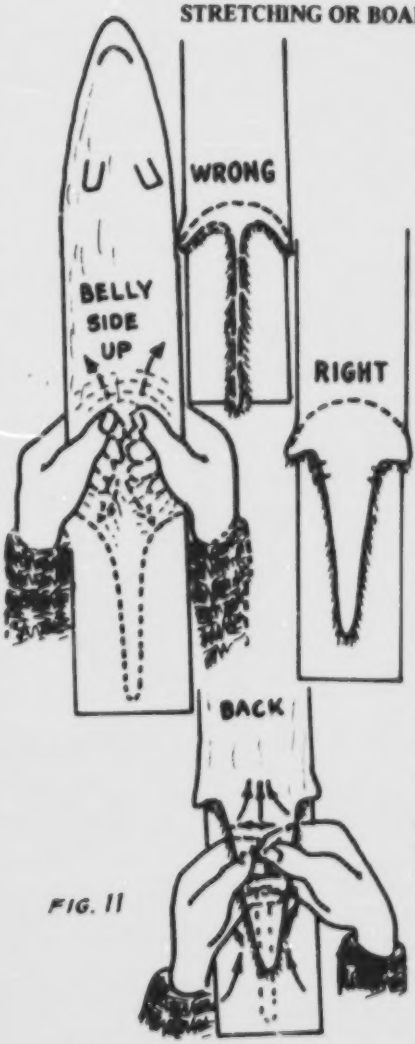


FIG. 11

Place the pelt on the stretcher fur in.

Starting below the front legs push the belly of the pelt slightly toward the head with your thumbs and at the same time pull the back of the pelt slightly down towards the tail with your fingers. Keep doing this all the way down the pelt to the skirt. This will make the belly shorter and lengthen the back making a better inspection-area window yet not thinning the fur (See Figure 11).

Now, turn the board over with the back of it facing up. With the board sitting this way start at the root of the tail to stretch the tail wide and at the same time push it towards the rump to shorten the tail. Do this right to the tip of the tail, then work back again. This work makes a better-looking job of the inspection-area window and thickens the fur instead of thinning it which happens when the tail is stretched out lengthwise (See Figure 11).

Now with the pelt placed smoothly and evenly on a board with the tail well cleaned and opened, the pelt can be fastened to the board with a few tacks around the skirt and a few along the edge of the tail. Do not cut off the lower lip or allow it to hang open; one tack will hold it in place and make the pelt look better. Let the skin of the front legs stick out free from the pelt. Do not fold the front legs together nor turn them back inside the pelt as either way can cause rot and hairslip. The back legs of the pelt can be fastened with one or two tacks.

A belly board should be used with the one piece drying board. The belly board is 5/16 by 5/16 by 30 inches (1 cm by 1 cm by 75 cm) and sloped or tapered from one end to the other so it can be removed after the pelt is dry. Place the smallest end between the drying board and the mink pelt on the belly side and push it ahead until the belly board goes up to the head of the mink. Again wipe clean. The pelt is now ready for drying.

DRYING THE CASED PELT

After the pelt has been stretched or boarded it should be hung to dry in a place away from the stove, away from strong, hot sunlight, and away from strong, hot winds. If it is dried too fast it will heat burn and ruin the pelt. A temperature of 55 to 60 degrees (13° to 16°C) above zero is about right and the pelts will dry in 24 to 60 hours, depending on the amount of air movement or light breeze passing through the drying place. They should be wiped every once in a while with a dry, clean rag to take off sweat and any fat that might work out of the leather. When the pelts have been on the drying board long enough to dry they should be taken off and hung by the nose until the head and legs are fully dry before packing for shipment.

Cased pelts should not be folded but should be packed flat one on top of the other. Folding makes a crease and takes away some of the good appearance of the pelt.

SKINNING THE "OPEN" PELT

Skinning the "open" pelt is much different than skinning the "cased" pelt. By this method the animal is laid on its back on a clean place. With the beaver the feet and tail are first cut off. With bear the feet are not cut off but are skinned out.

Cutting these parts from the beaver is not difficult but there is an easy way. On the tail at the first fringe of fur there is a flat joint. This joint is about ¼ inch into the fringe of fur. A little practice will make this joint easy to find and the tail can be cut off with one slice of the knife across the flat joint. Very close to the fringe of fur above the feet on the front legs is another flat joint. This joint can be felt with the finger and thumb, and one cut across the joint with a sharp knife will sever the foot.

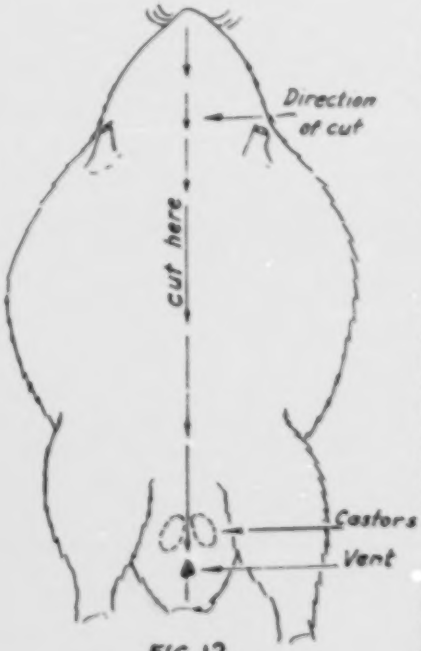


FIG. 12

Showing proper dressing procedure and location of vent and castors

To cut off the hind foot first bend the foot forward towards the belly of the beaver, bending it full forward at the heel. With the foot held this way, cut across the cords at the back of the foot and keep cutting all around the foot with it still bent forward. A snap sideways after this cut is finished will usually break the foot free from the leg.

The next step is to slit the pelt from the chin to the tail on the belly side and in a straight line (See Figure 12).

Note: Beaver castors, on both male and female, are found on each side and just forward of the vent (See Figure 12). These should be removed carefully with a knife or pulled free with the thumb and finger so the sacks are not broken, which would let the oil run out. They should be tied at the cords and hung until dry. The more care used in removing and drying, the more the castors are worth. They are used in making scents and perfumes.

The pelt is then skinned back one side at a time to the back. When the legs are reached do not slit them open but pull them through, pulling the hide off the way you would take off a sock. Be careful with the skinning knife around the legs because the skin is easily cut in these tender places. Skin carefully at the head. Cut the ears off close to the skull. Skin around the eyes and nose and the pelt is free from the carcass.

SKINNING AND PREPARING BEAR PELTS

These directions for preparing bear pelts are the way taxidermists want them prepared. Fur dealers advise us to use salt on bear hides only as a last resort to prevent rot in hot weather. It is for you to decide. If you sell to a taxidermist then follow these directions, which have been supplied by a Winnipeg firm.

REMEMBER ! !

In bears, as in all other fur pelts, grease is one of our greatest enemies. Do all possible to remove every bit of it. It pays!

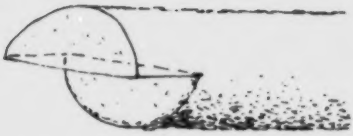
To ship the bear pelt, roll it fur-in from end to end but not too tightly. It can then either be bagged or boxed and shipped to the fur house of your choice.

A bear should be skinned by making a cut from the tip of the tail along the centre of the abdomen right through to the lower lip. It is optional whether the lower lip is cut or not. With the hind legs cuts are made starting from the inside edge of the pad near the heel, up the inside centre of the leg, until it joins the cut along the abdomen. The front legs are cut starting at the front edge of the pad, through its centre, to the back edge, then up along the inside centre of the leg and by the elbow to join the cut over the brisket.

A bear skin contains a lot of fat and special attention should be given to its curing. The ears, nose and lips should be opened and as much fat as possible removed. Care should be taken that the roots of the hair, which come through to the inner surface of the skin, are not cut. The feet should be skinned out to the tips of the toes, splitting the toe pads, if necessary, and the bones disarticulated at the last joints, and the fatty tissue cut away.

Plenty of salt should be used and well rubbed in, because it helps to absorb the grease. Care must be taken to salt to the very edges of the skin. After the first night of curing, a second trimming and re-salting is helpful. When drying, greasy areas may again show up and these should be retrimmed and salted. If there is an extra lot of grease, wood ashes may be rubbed into these areas, further helping to absorb it. Only when there is no salt at hand should a bear skin be stretched in a frame or pegged out on the ground. It is true that this is the best way to dry a skin if it cannot be cured otherwise, but although it stretches the skin to abnormal size and makes an impressive appearance, the skin never retains these extended dimensions. When tanning the fibres re-adjust themselves to normal size, and although the skin can be extended somewhat in stretching, as a rug it is never possible to make it as large as a "green hide" in the frame. The holes about the edges must be cut out, and this reduces the size of the skin.

Note: Where beaver, or any other pelt is accidentally cut while skinning or any other way, sew these cuts with neat, even stitches. This makes damage look smaller and gives the pelt a much neater appearance.



Beaver pelt fleshing pole
end view - notch undercut

Material needed
One 10 inch log - 6 to 8 feet
long - Two stumps or
other sturdy support

FIG. 13

FLESHING THE "OPEN" PELT

The person who skins the beaver has two choices — either to skin the pelt clean or to flesh it after it is skinned.

It is far better to skin clean as one goes along, although skinning may take longer this way. If the pelt is rough-skinned, then the fleshing must be done afterwards. There are many ways to flesh beaver pelts and many tools with which to do the job: butcher knives, cabinet scrapers, beaver teeth, broken glass, axe heads and moose shin bones are a few that have been seen in use. So far we have found no easy way to flesh beaver and believe the method of skinning clean is best.

A type of log fleshing pole is used by many trappers and does the job quite well, providing care is taken. This fleshing pole is pictured in Figures 13 and 14. Before fleshing the roughly skinned beaver pelt, it is better to fold it leather to leather, so the fur does not come in contact with the grease, then hang it to cool until the grease stiffens. This makes fleshing somewhat easier.

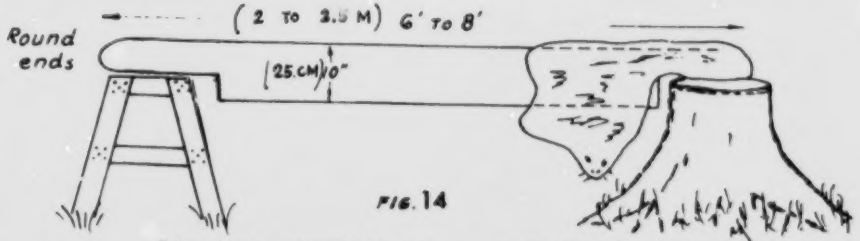


FIG. 14

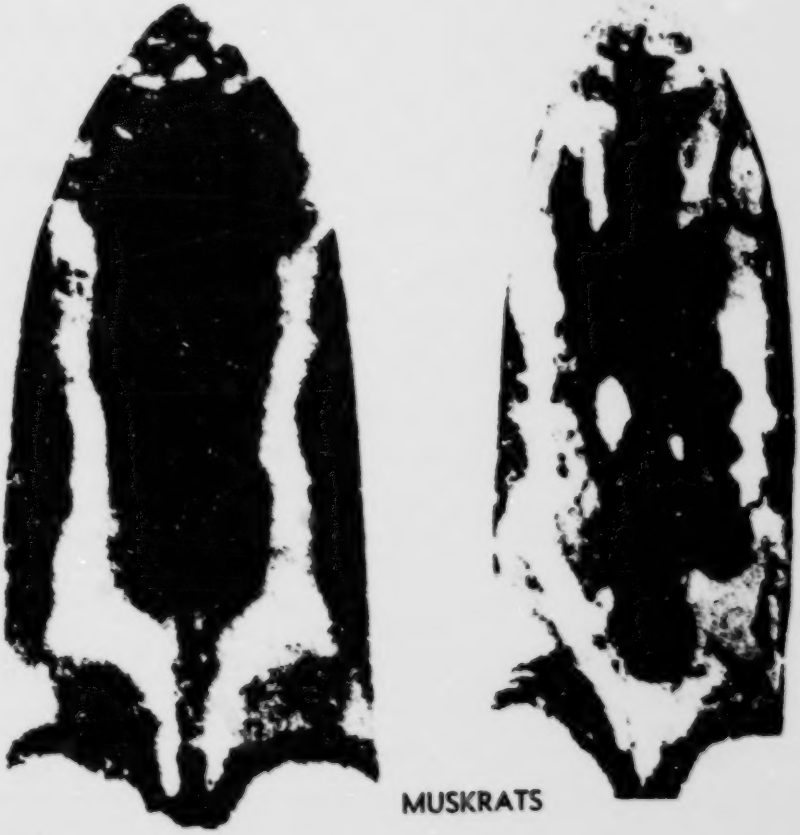
Showing a practical beaver pelt fleshing pole

GREASE (FAT) REMOVAL

Grease is one of the worst enemies of fur. Excess grease should always be removed. Each pelt should be cleaned until no surface grease or fat remains to grease-burn the pelt. When all excess grease has been removed, both sides of the pelt should be washed with clean water. Lukewarm water is best because hot water may harm the pelt. Be sure all mud and dirt is washed from the fur but do not try to tear out spruce pitch, as this could break the guard hairs and cause pelt damage.

In the preparation of muskrat pelts excess grease is removed by very careful scraping with a dull knife or a brisk rubbing with burlap sacking or grass. Soft, pliable, oily leather in muskrat pelts generally denotes good quality. In this regard oil should not be confused with grease or fat.

The two muskrat pelts shown in Figures 14A and 14B are illustrations of fall pelts showing the general pattern by which juveniles or immatures are distinguished from adults. This form of stretch is the one preferred in Manitoba.



MUSKRATS

JUVENILE
FIG. 14A

ADULT
FIG. 14B

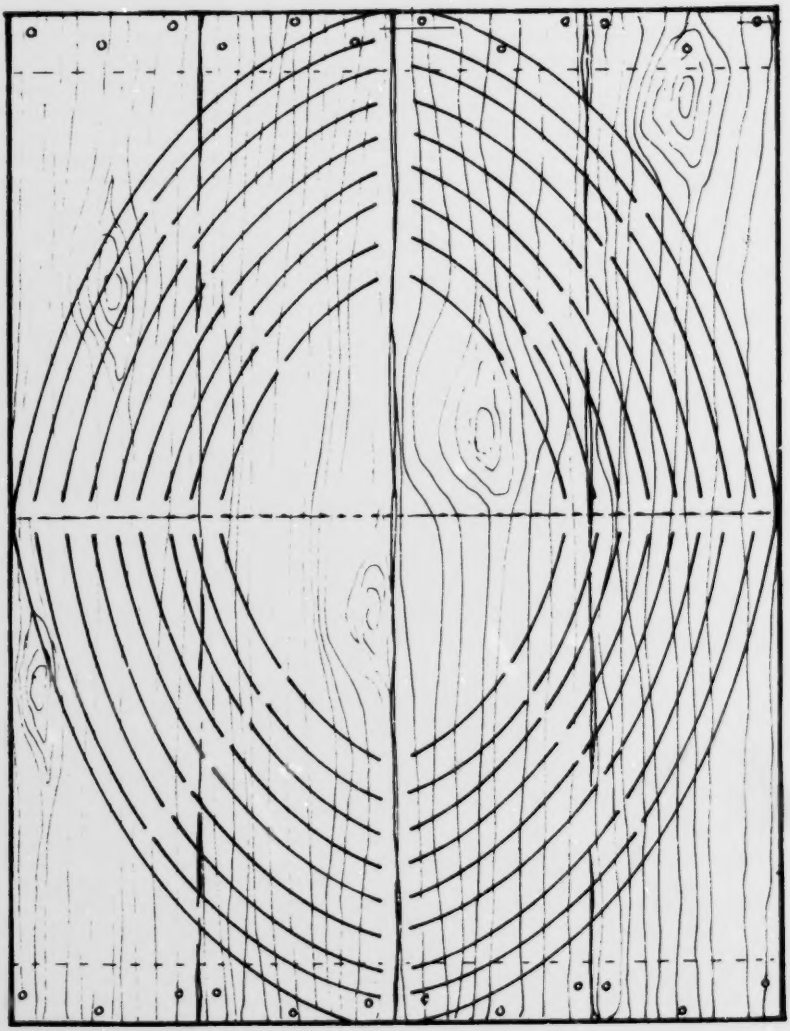


Fig. 15

STRETCHING OR BOARDING THE "OPEN" PELT

In Manitoba the oval beaver stretch is recognized as proper because it follows closely the true shape of the beaver. Uniform patterns are on hand for your use at all points to ensure the right shapes and sizes. Figure 15 shows an inexpensive, easily made and practical beaver board. On this board we have illustrated the patterns.

FIG. 16

The beaver template in Figure 16 represents all pelt sizes from 82 inch (205 cm) supers to 42 inch (105 cm) cubs including in-between sizes. The use of the Master Beaver Template ensures that each beaver pelt, regardless of size, will be perfectly uniform.

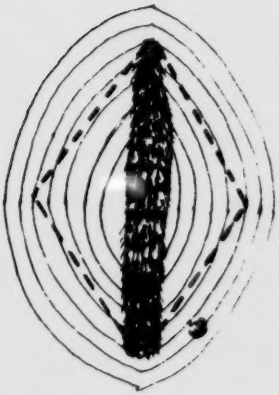


FIG. 17

Take the raw pelt by the nose and shake it out so that it is not wrinkled and so that it hangs down loosely and freely. Hold the pelt by the nose in front of the beaver patterns as in Figure 17. This will give you the true size of the beaver because the pelt will always reach from one ring at the top to the same ring at the bottom. Always make certain the pelt is just a little smaller than the tight nose-tail measurement, or you may have trouble in fastening the tender parts of the pelt. Tearing may occur when the pelt begins to pull as it dries.

The pelt may be nailed to the solid frame or it may be sewn to hoops made according to the same pattern. In either case first fasten the nose to the proper size shown by measuring with the pelt, then fasten the tail, then each side so the pelt forms a diamond shape as shown by the dotted line on Figure 17. After this has been done, if you use nails, nail every six inches all around the pelt but leave the nail sticking up at least an inch so the pelt can be raised as it dries to let air underneath for drying the fur side too. When it has been nailed every six inches go around again and nail every inch to hold the pelt evenly to dry and to give it a nice, even, attractive pelt edge when it is removed from the drying board.

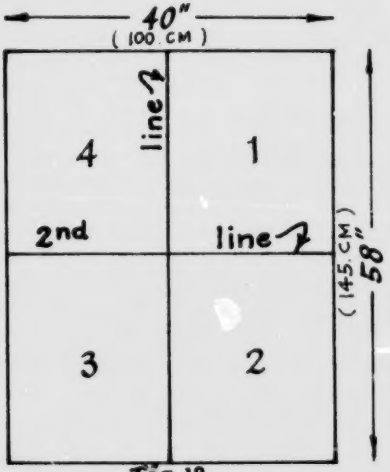


Fig 18

USE OF MASTER BEAVER TEMPLATE

1. Draw two lines at right angles on the surface where you want the pattern. Draw one line from side to side across the centre of the drying board and the other from end to end, also through the centre as in Figure 18.

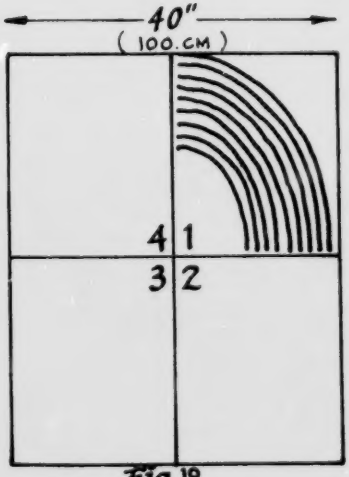


Fig 19

2. Place the template on number one and trace the outline by a marking tool through each of the slots and the outer circular edge. When number one is marked, move to number two and continue the process until each of the four positions has been marked (See Figure 19).

When the tracing is done the board is ready to receive beaver pelts. Proceed as directed.

If the pelt is to be sewn or laced on a hoop type frame after fastening at the nose, tail and each side, it can be fastened all the way around, but the sewing or lacing should be done loosely until fastened all the way around. When this is finished go around the pelt again and tighten the stitches so the pelt is even and uniform on the frame.

The leg holes of the beaver should not be left hanging open. They give the pelt a rought look and could cause a loss in value. When the pelt is on the drying board the skin of the leg should be pulled out lightly towards you and sliced off. This will leave an oblong hole about 1½ by 2½ inches (3.8 cm by 5.3 cm). This should be sewn up with neat, even stitches running parallel to the side of the pelt. In using the solid type of drying board it is not always easy to sew these, and it is permissible to pull the sides of the hole together and close them with three or four nails. One nail will hold, but four nails will make a neater job.

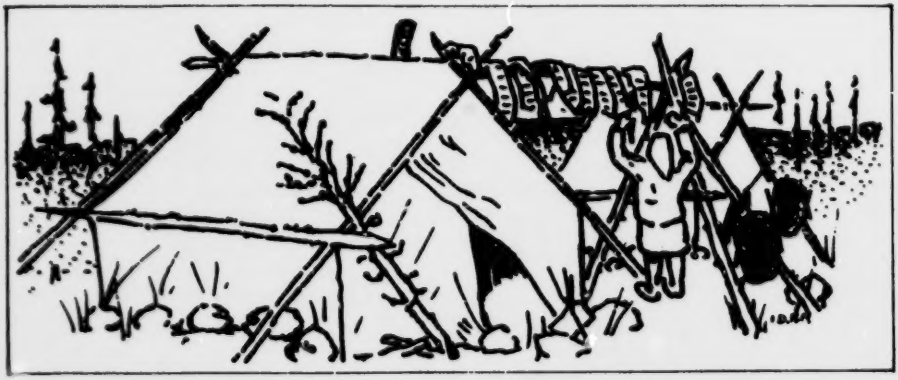
FINAL CLEANING ON DRYING BOARD

After the pelt is on the drying board and the sewing and nailing has been completed, the leather side should be washed again with lukewarm water and toilet soap. This will remove blood stains and any bits of light grease still on the leather. If washing soap (soap for washing clothes) is used to wash the pelt, it sometimes makes the leather yellow and gives it a stale look, and it might be graded down.

DRYING THE OPEN PELT

As with all other types of fur, beaver should be dried slowly in a cool place away from the stove, hot sunlight or hot, strong winds. As the pelt dries it should be wiped from time to time with a clean, dry rag to take off any fat coming out of the leather.

When the pelt is thoroughly dry, pull out the nails and take the pelt off the board. Brush out the fur until it is clean and shiny.



STORING OPEN PELTS

Beaver pelts may be stored leather to leather or fur to fur, but should not be stored leather against fur, because this makes the fur oily.

Beaver pelts should be left flat but can be rolled for shipping. They should be rolled from end to end, never from side to side. Do not fold these pelts because this could cause cracking and make the pelt look poor.

FUR-IN, FUR-OUT

All "cased" pelts are not sold fur-out nor are they are sold fur-in. Some are sold each way. This is because many "cased" pelts are different in colour. For instance, a mink will carry its colour all the way up to the head so if it is dark at the rump a buyer knows it will be dark at the head. This kind of pelt is sold fur-in. On the other hand, a red fox may show true cherry red on the rump but may be grey on the shoulders. This kind of pelt is sold fur-out.

Another reason is that some kinds of fur stay fairly greasy in spite of fleshing and cleaning. This could cause slight grease burn at times and these pelts are sold fur-in. It is a wise trapper who sells his fur the way the fur trade wants it. If a fur-in pelt is sold fur-out, for example, the buyer knows this is the wrong way and may think the trapper is trying to hide damage. The price will be lower. Check the following tables of how these furs should be prepared. Do not make mistakes that may cost you hard-earned money.

Fur-In	Fur-Out
Weasel	Fisher
Mink	Marten
Muskrat	Fox
Otter	Lynx
Raccoon	Wolf
Skunk	Wolverine
Squirrel	Bobcat

TURNING PELTS FUR-OUT

In ordinary drying the pelt will be on the drying board fur-in. If it is the kind of pelt that should be sold fur-out, let it dry for several hours or until the leather has taken on a dry-shiny look. Take it off the drying board and starting at the nose, turn it fur-out, put it back on the drying board and leave it until it has fully dried.

TRANSPORTATION

Salted skins may be transported damp without danger if kept cool. A salted skin is always in its best condition and should not be dried, unless for the convenience of lighter weight in carrying. The only danger lies in its being subject to abnormal heat somewhere in transit. If it is more convenient to carry or ship damp, it should be placed in a burlap bag or a wooden box or some other ventilated container. Do not use plastic bags if there is any danger of exposure to sunlight.

Also, do not use a metal container. Be sure to mark the outside: "RUSH", "PERISHABLE", and KEEP COOL".

INFORMATION FOR TRAPPERS REGARDING EXPORT AND TANNER'S PERMITS

No person shall export furs without an export permit. In order to obtain this, it is necessary to:

1. Address your request to any of the Regional and District Offices listed on page 51, or to the Department of Natural Resources,
   Administrative Services
   Wawanesa Building
   500 - 191 Broadway Avenue
   Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3T8

2. A trapper must give licence number and remit royalty to cover pelts to be exported.

3. Give name and address of the party to whom pelts are to be exported.

4. State whether to be sent by mail, express or other common carrier. If by express or other common carrier and there are two or more companies at point of shipment, give name of company.

5. State number of bales or packages in shipment, and the number of each kind of pelts in each bale or package.

6. There is no charge to the trapper for an export permit.

No person shall tan or process furs without authority of the Department. In order to obtain a tanner's permit it is necessary to address your request to the applicable address as shown in number 1, a), b), c), d), or e).

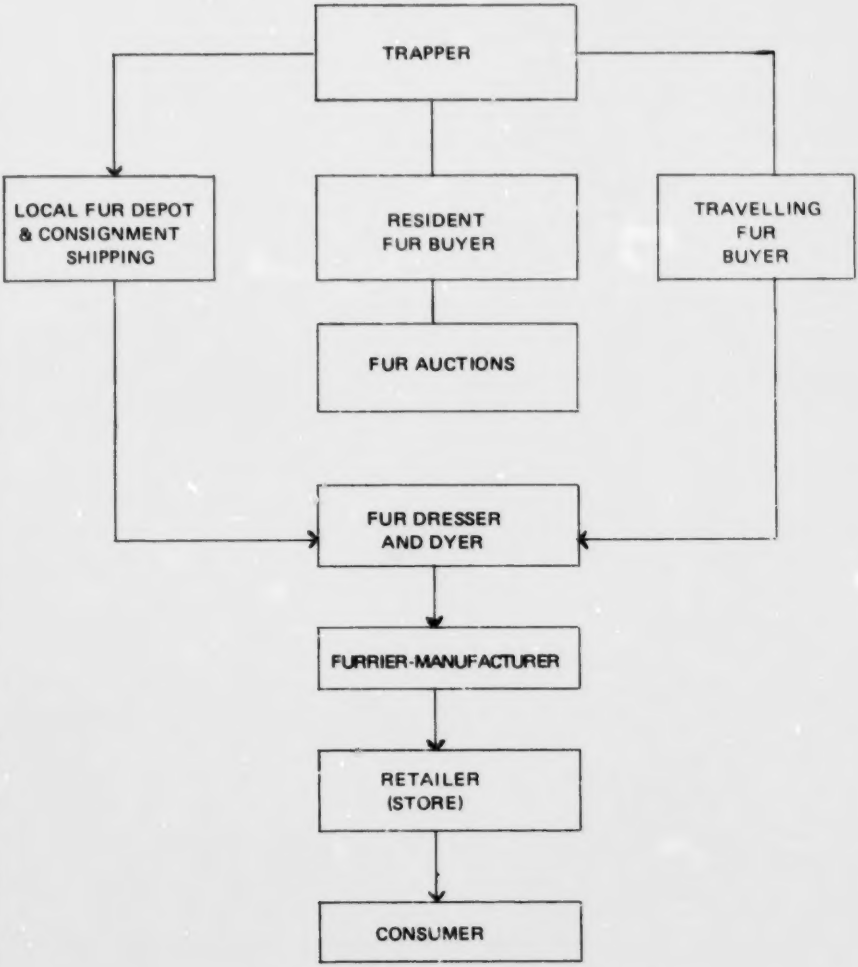
1. A trapper must give his licence number and remit royalty to cover pelts to be tanned.

2. Give name and address of the Tannery where pelts will be processed.

3. There is no charge for this permit.

ALL RAW FURS, INCLUDING RANCH MINK, FOXES AND OTHER RANCH RAISED FUR BEARERS ARE SUBJECT TO THE ABOVE REGULATIONS. NO ROYALTY IS LEVIED ON RANCH RAISED PELTS.

MANITOBA
NORMAL MOVEMENT OF RAW FURS –
PRODUCER TO CONSUMER



TANNING

How to Tan Small Skins with the Hair Left On

Method No. 1

Place in a crock or wood container a tanning solution made in the following proportions:

1 ounce sulphuric acid (28 g)
7 pounds saltpetre (3.15 kg)
1 gallon of soft water (4.5 ℓ)

Place the hide or skin in this solution and leave one month. Remove the hide from the solution and place flesh side up on floor or table and with a hacksaw blade, break up the flesh and remove surplus fat, etc., and wash in warm soapy water.

Spread or tack on a wall, flesh side out and dress with a small quantity of warm neatsfoot oil.

Method No. 2

10 lbs. salt
5 gallons soft water

Be sure to remove all fat and grease. Place the skin in this mixture and leave for a month or more. Every week work the skin by hand to be certain the salty mixture is covering all parts of the skin. This method is not as good as method one but the skin will never spoil. When the skin is cured it may be removed and washed to take off the salt.

FUR MARKETS

Who buys your fur, where are they, and how do they operate?

In Manitoba there are more than two hundred licensed operating fur dealers annually. These dealers may be divided into three groups:

1. Resident Fur Buyer

This group generally operates a local business and buys fur as part of that business. This group provides a service to the community in which they live by stocking commodities needed in that community. The buying of fur by this group is done both as a community service and as speculation. They try to buy fur at a fair price and try to make a profit by reselling the fur.

2. Travelling Fur Buyer

This group does not operate a local business but enters the area only as fur buyers. Their contribution to the community is not that of the local resident trader but their visits do tend to raise fur prices in the community. The travelling buyer is strictly a speculator who buys for cash in hopes of selling at a favourable market price.

During the past several years the travelling and local fur buyers have participated in the purchase of fur during special days of the year when "fur tables" are set up to enable a trapper to sell his fur outright or receive immediate advances. This also avails him the opportunity to have his fur appraised by each buyer if he so wishes, and sell his product to the highest bidder. These fur tables or depots are sponsored by the Manitoba Registered Trappers Association and the Department of Natural Resources.

The local Hudson's Bay Company stores and the fur receiving depots provide advances on fur. Shipping materials are usually provided by these buyers if requested.

3. Fur Auction Sales

These sales are operated by concerns who cater to the trappers and fur buyers of the world. They operate on a straight commission. The auction house grades the pelts, puts them into lots of similar size and quality and offers them for sale at widely publicized auctions. If furs are greasy, matted or dirty, they might be cleaned by the auction if such cleaning in their opinion will increase the demand for and the value of the pelts. This is called DRUMMING. The shipper is charged for this cleaning. He could save money by doing a good job on the fur before he ships it.

CANADIAN FUR AUCTION HOUSES

There are three presently active fur auction houses in Canada:

The Hudson Bay Company
International Fur Sales Centre
65 Skyway Avenue
Rexdale, Ontario
M9W 6C7

Ontario Trappers Association
P.O. Box 705
North Bay, Ontario
P1B 8J8 PHONE: (705) 472-5850

Western Canadian Raw Fur Auction Sales Ltd.
303A West Pender Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6B 1T3 PHONE: 683-5881

MAJOR FUR DEPOTS

The following list of fur companies are receiving depots which grade, sort, issue advances if necessary and forward your fur to the Auction Houses. No auction takes place at the immediate time at these locations.

Edmonton Fur Auction Sales
10505 - 106 St.
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 2X5 PHONE: 426-7790

Edmonton Fur Auction Sales
18 North Broadway
Williams Lake, British Columbia
PHONE: (604) 398-6131

Dominion Soudack
691 Henderson Drive
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4N 6A8 PHONE: (306) 545-5373

Dominion Soudack
589 Henry Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3A 0V1 PHONE: (204) 774-1705

Hudson Bay Company Fur Sale Centre
151 Hymus Blvd.
Point Clair, Quebec

The Edmonton Fur Auction and Dominion Soudack Ltd. forward all furs to the Hudson Bay International Fur Sales Department in Toronto for marketing.

The Ontario Trappers Association have agents located in various parts of the province. For these locations and information consult your Manitoba Registered Trappers Association.

Department of Natural Resources

HEAD OFFICE — 1495 St. James Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W9 (ph. 775-0221)

SOUTHEASTERN REGION — Building 3 - 139 Tuxedo Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 0H6 (ph. 944-7270)

District Offices:

Steinbach — Box 2019, Steinbach, Manitoba R0A 2A0 (ph. 326-4471)
Falcon Lake — Falcon Lake, Manitoba R0E 0N0 (ph. 349-2201)
Portage la Prairie — 25 Tupper Street, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba R1N 3K1 (ph. 857-9711)
Rennie - - Rennie, Manitoba R0E 1R0 (ph. 369-5232)
Piney — Piney, Manitoba R0A 1K0 (ph. 423-2252)
Seven Sisters — Seven Sisters, Manitoba R0E 1Y0 (ph. 348-2203)
Sprague — Sprague, Manitoba R0A 1Z0 (ph. 437-2348)
Hadashville — Hadashville, Manitoba R0E 0X0 (ph. 426-5313)
Whitemouth — Whitemouth, Manitoba R0E 2G0 (ph. 348-2214)
West Hawk Lake — West Hawk, Manitoba R0E 2H0 (ph. 349-2245)
Manitou — Box 10, Manitou, Manitoba R0G 1G0 (ph. 242-2950)

SOUTHWESTERN REGION — 1129 Queens Avenue, Brandon, Manitoba R7A 1L9 (ph. 728-4788)

District Offices:

Carberry — Box 900, Carberry, Manitoba R0K 0H0 (ph. 834-3223)
Killarney — Box 1420, Killarney, Manitoba R0K 1G0 (ph. 523-8230)
Virden — Box 1360, Virden, Manitoba R0M 2C0 (ph. 748-2043)
Neepawa — Box 1089, Neepawa, Manitoba R0J 1H0 (ph. 476-2076)
Turtle Mountain — Turtle Mountain Provincial Park, Manitoba R0K 0E0 (ph. 534-6803)
Shoal Lake — Box 416, Shoal Lake, Manitoba R0J 1Z0 (ph. 759-2475)

EASTERN REGION — Box 50, 20 - First Street South, Beausejour, Manitoba R0E 0C0 (ph. 268-1411)

District Offices:

Lac du Bonnet — Box 850, Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba R0E 1A0 (ph. 345-2231)
Bissett — Box 108, Bissett, Manitoba R0E 0J0 (ph. 277-5212)
Pine Falls — Box 389, Pine Falls, Manitoba R0E 1M0 (ph. 367-2481)
Grand Beach — Grand Beach, Manitoba R0E 0S0 (ph. 754-2728)
Birds Hill — Box 183, R.R. #2, Dugald, Manitoba R0E 0K0 (ph. 222-9151)

INTERLAKE REGION — Box 1800, Gimli, Manitoba R0C 1B0 (ph. 642-8710)

District Offices:

Ashern — Box 410, Ashern, Manitoba R0C 0E0 (ph. 768-2368)
Lundar — Box 10, Lunar, Manitoba R0C 1Y0 (ph. 762-5229)
Gypsumville — Box 9, Gypsumville, Manitoba R0C 1J0 (ph. 659-5208)
Grand Rapids — Lot 1, Grand Rapids Drive, Grand Rapids, Manitoba R0C 1E0 (ph. 639-2241)
Hodgson — Box 119, Hodgson, Manitoba R0C 1N0 (ph. 372-6296)
Winnipeg Beach — Box 388, Winnipeg Beach, Manitoba R0C 3G0 (ph. 389-2752)
Riverton — Box 70, Riverton, Manitoba R0C 2R0 (ph. 378-2261)
Selkirk — #1 Keystone Drive, Selkirk, Manitoba R1A 2H5 (ph. 482-5497)

NORTHEAST REGION — Box 28, 59 Elizabeth Road, Thompson, Manitoba R8N 1X4 (ph. 778-4411)

District Offices:

Norway House — Box 38, Norway House, Manitoba R0B 1B0 (ph. 359-6266)
Gillam — Box 429, Gillam, Manitoba R0B 0L0 (ph. 652-2273)
Wabowden — Wabowden, Manitoba R0B 1S0 (ph. 689-2688)
Lynn Lake — Box 239, Lynn Lake, Manitoba R0B 0W0 (ph. 356-2413)
Island Lake — Island Lake, Manitoba R0B 0T0 (ph. 456-2362)
Churchill — Box 760, Churchill, Manitoba R0B 0E0 (ph. 675-8897)
God's Narrows — God's Narrows, Manitoba R0B 0M0 (ph. 335-2366)
Leaf Rapids — Box 430, Leaf Rapids, Manitoba R0B 1W0 (ph. 473-8133)

WESTERN REGION — Box 10, 27 - 2nd Avenue S.W., Dauphin, Manitoba R7N 3E5 (ph. 638-9111)

District Offices:

Swan River — Box 640, Swan River, Manitoba R0L 1Z0 (ph. 734-3429)
Roblin — Box 849, Roblin, Manitoba R0L 1P0 (ph. 937-2181)
Mafeking — Box 27, Mafeking, Manitoba R0L 1B0 (ph. 545-2263)
Winnipegosis — Box 366, Winnipegosis, Manitoba R0L 2G0 (ph. 656-4871)
Garland — General Delivery, Garland, Manitoba R0L 0W0 (ph. 742-3408)
Grandview — Box 156, Grandview, Manitoba R0L 0Y0 (ph. 546-2701)

NORTHWESTERN REGION — Box 2550, 3rd Street and Ross Avenue, The Pas, Manitoba R9A 1M4 (ph. 623-6411)

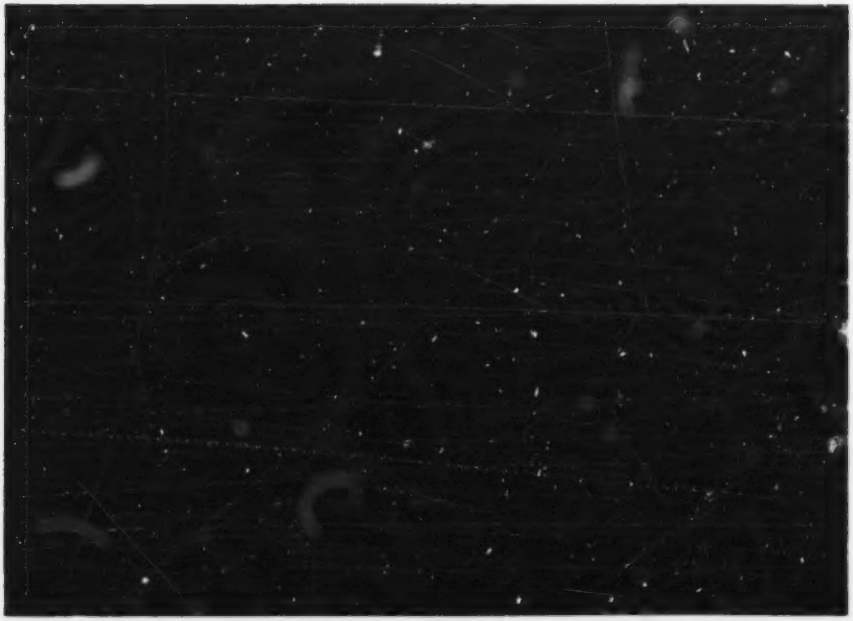
District Offices:

Cranberry Portage — Box 41, Cranberry Portage, Manitoba R0B 0H0 (ph. 472-3331)
Flin Flon — 9 Terrace Avenue, Flin Flon, Manitoba R8A 1S2 (ph. 687-7834)
Snow Lake — Box 32, Snow Lake, Manitoba R0B 1M0 (ph. 358-2521)

BEAVER MANAGEMENT

Some thoughts and observations on beaver management at this point may be worthwhile, especially since there is evidence of over-population in many areas. Many trappers are not trapping as many beaver as they should, with the result that a great deal of good habitat is being destroyed thereby decreasing fur crop potential and income.

On a trapline which has held beaver for many years, their presence is often taken for granted but let them move away, then notice the terrific difference caused by their absence. In early days the hunt for beaver resulted in the exploration of Canada. Today, although on a greatly reduced scale, only the young at heart and bold in spirit continue to hunt for beaver lodges and the fur wealth they may contain. Besides providing improved habitat for other animals by impounding waters, just how important is the beaver to the economy of a trapping community? In 1979/80, a record year, 68,311 beaver were taken in Manitoba and their pelts sold at an average price of $39.50. They provided $2,698,284.00 to trapping communities.



The trapper must manage his beaver population wisely to prevent serious damage to habitat by over-population and to maintain a healthy, vigorous stock of first grade animals. The most desirable condition a trapper can work for in beaver management is to take beaver each year on a sustained yield basis just below the carrying capacity of the trapline. This would mean, if all estimates were accurate, that approximately the same amount of beaver could be harvested year after year.

In order to reach this secure position the trapper must count old and new active beaver lodges each fall. From experience he arrives at a crop figure which will assure him of a good harvest yet leave just enough animals as brood stock to supply next year's crop. Colonies having a doubtful constant food and water supply should be trapped out. Where the adult female beaver has been trapped it is as well to trap the colony out because her loss breaks the family bond which holds the colony together. The adult male beaver of a colony can be replaced the following summer without interrupting the colony structure.

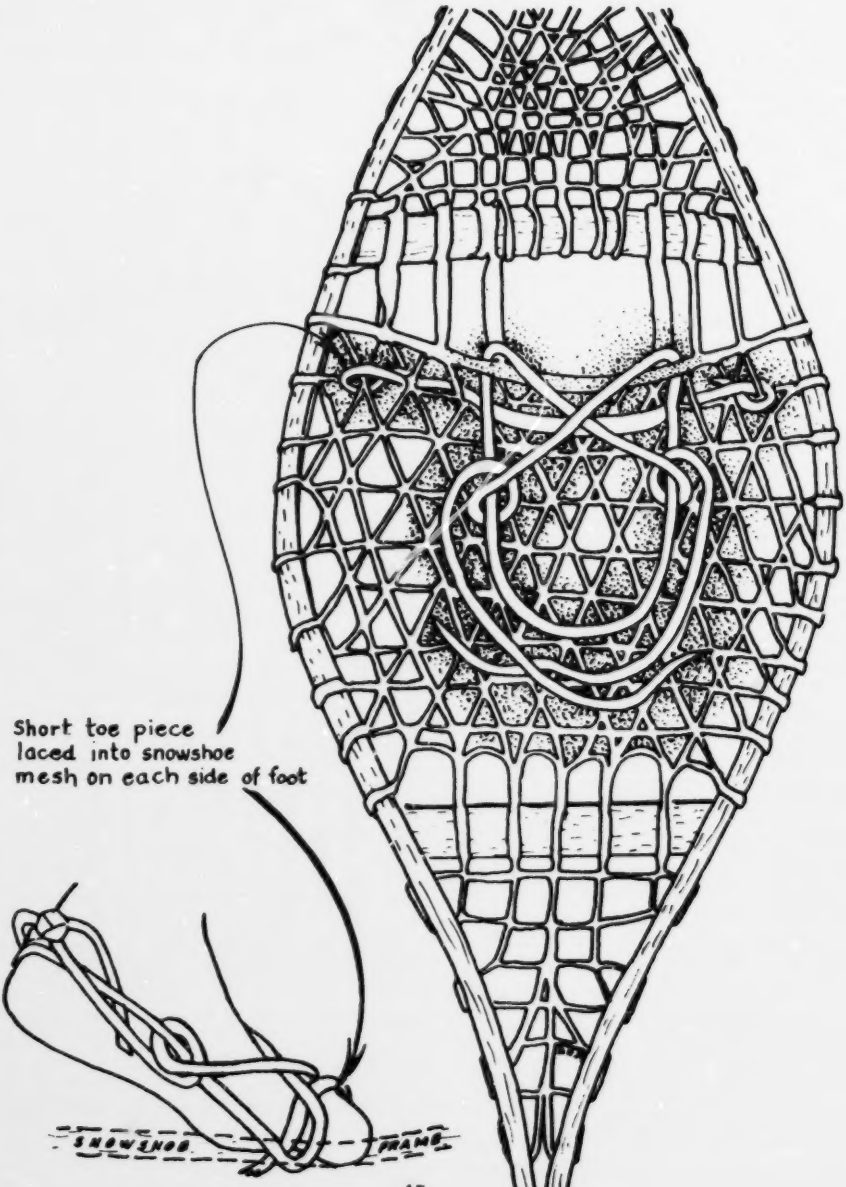
From time to time beaver from other areas may enter the trapline, overtax the carrying capacity and upset the trappers crop calculations. At such times the trapper should locate one or more assistants or helpers, then with permission obtainable from his Conservation Officer proceed to trap hard enough to give the desired result.

Gestation Periods (copulation to birth)
of Selected North American Mammals
Burt and Grossenheider, 1952
From the Manual of Game Investigational Techniques

Common Name	Gestation Period	No. of Litter Per Year	Litter Size
Badger	90 days	1	2 - 5
Bear, Black	210 days	1	1 - 3 (usually 2)
Beaver	90 - 108 days	1	1 - 8 (usually 2 - 4)
Bobcat	50 days	1	2 - 4 (usually 2)
Caribou	210 - 240 days	1	1 (rarely 2)
Chipmunk, Eastern	31 days	2	3 - 6
Coyote	60 - 65 days	1	5 - 10
Deer, White-tailed	187 - 198 days	1	1 - 3
Elk	255 days	1	1 - 2
Fisher	357 days*	1	1 - 4
Fox, Arctic	60 days	1	1 - 14 (usually 5 - 6)
Fox, Gray	63 days	1	3 - 7
Fox, Red	49 - 55 days	1	4 - 9
Hare, Snowshoe	38 days	2 - 3	1 - 7
Jack Rabbit, White-tailed	33 days	2 - 3	3 - 6
Lynx	60 days	1	1 - 4 (usually 2)
Marten	217 - 231 days*	1	2 - 4
Mink	51 days	1	1 - 10 (usually 2 - 6)
Moose	240 - 250 days	1	1 - 2
Muskrat	28 - 30 days	1 - 4	1 - 11 (usually 5 - 6)
Otter	60 days	1	1 - 5 (usually 2)
Porcupine	112 days	1	1
Raccoon	63 days	1	2 - 7 (average 4)
Squirrel, Red	40 days	2	2 - 7
Skunk, Striped	62 days	1	1 - 10 (usually 5 - 6)
Weasel	240+ days*	1	4 - 8
Wolf, Gray	63 days	1	3 - 14 (usually 6 - 7)
Wolverine	210+ days*	*1 (every 2 - 3 years)	2 - 3

* *Probably delayed implantation.*

CREE METHOD OF TYING SNOWSHOE HARNESS

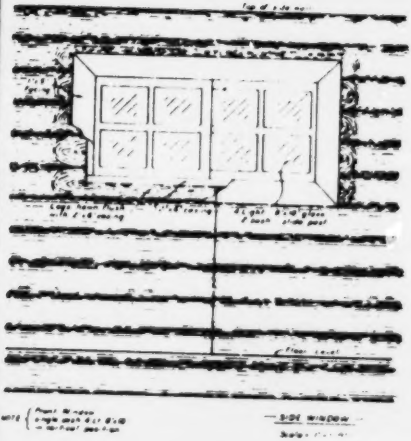


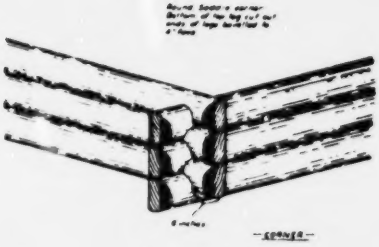
EXPERIMENTAL TRAPLINE CABIN PLAN

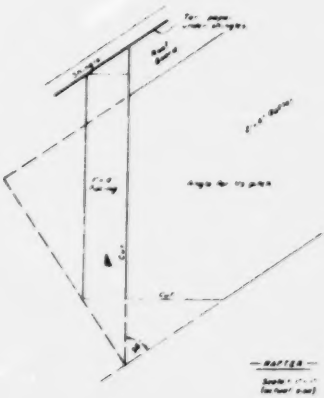
* LARGE SCALE PLANS AVAILABLE

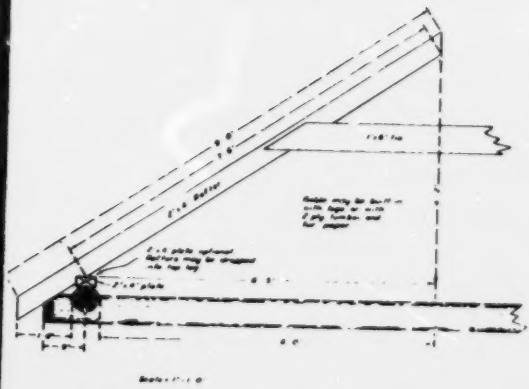
Plan for building a Log Trappers Cabin
(Taken from old Forest Service Cabin plans)

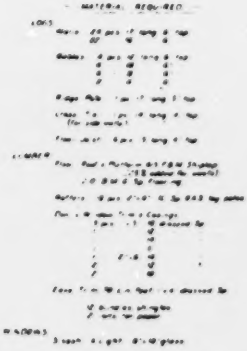
Top of Wall
The brick chimney is optional;
the Selkirk Chimney can be used
or in a pinch the ordinary roof jack
Note If veranda added, extend ridge pole and top and bottom side logs
Veranda attention optional
Floor level
(4.2 M)
14'-0"
(0.9 M)
3'-0"
12'-0" x 14'-0" inside logs
Scale 1" = 8'-0"
(Scale: 2.5 cm = 0.6 M)
(2.6 M x 4.2 M
inside logs











LARGE SCALE PLANS ARE AVAILABLE

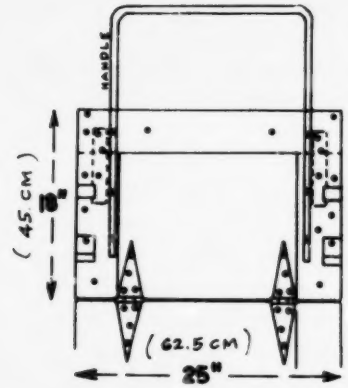
THE FRED FENNER POWER TOBOGGAN SLEIGH

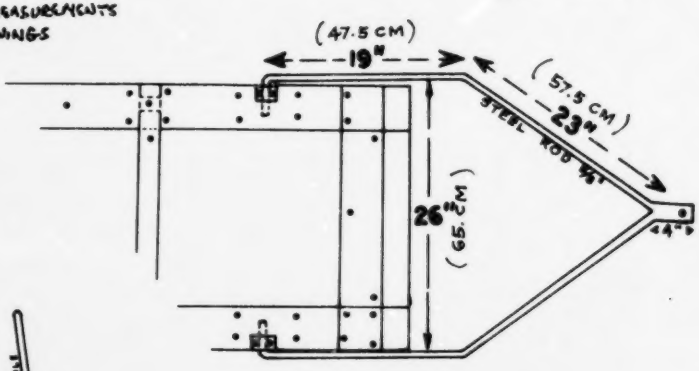
* MATERIALS REQUIRED

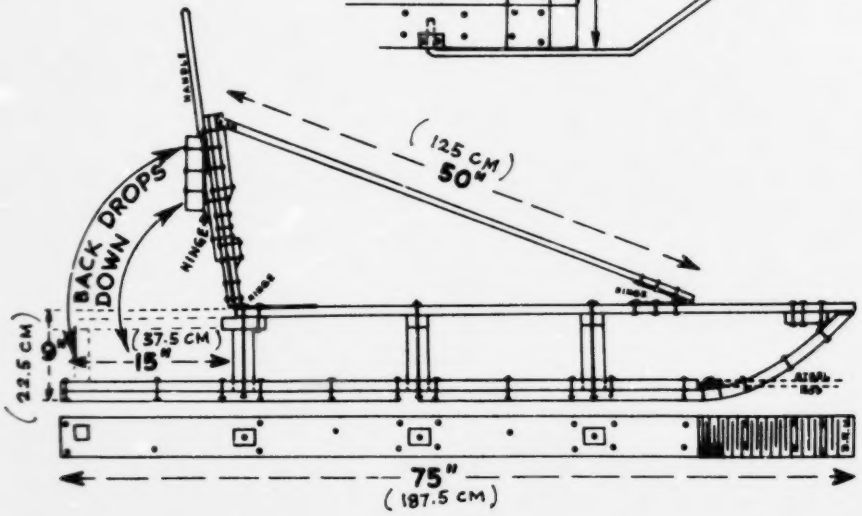
2 - 1"X 4"X 78" OAK RUNNERS
2 - 1"X 4"X 59" OAK
2 - 1"X 4"X 57½" OAK
2 - 1"X 4"X 28" OAK
2 - 1"X 2"X25" OAK
2 - 1"X 2"X 48" OAK
2 - 1"X 2"X 8" OAK
2 - 1"X 2"X 4" OAK
8 - 2"X 2"X 7" OAK
1 - ½"X 2"X 57½" PLYWOOD
1 - ½"X 18"X 25" PLYWOOD

6 - ⅜ X 9" CARRIAGE BOLTS
7 - ¼ X 2½" CARRIAGE BOLTS
4 - ¼ X 3" CARRIAGE BOLTS
14 - DOZ. #8 X 3½" STOVE BOLTS
1 - ¾"X 60" CONDUIT PIPE
4 - 1½"X 6" STRAP HINGES
2 - 2½" X 6" STRAP HINGES
1 - ⅜" X 65" STEEL ROD
1 - ½" X 2" X 4" STEEL PLATE
2 - ⅛" X 4" X 26" STEEL PLATE
2 - ATTACHMENTS FOR HITCH TO SLEIGH

* METRIC MEASUREMENTS ON DRAWINGS



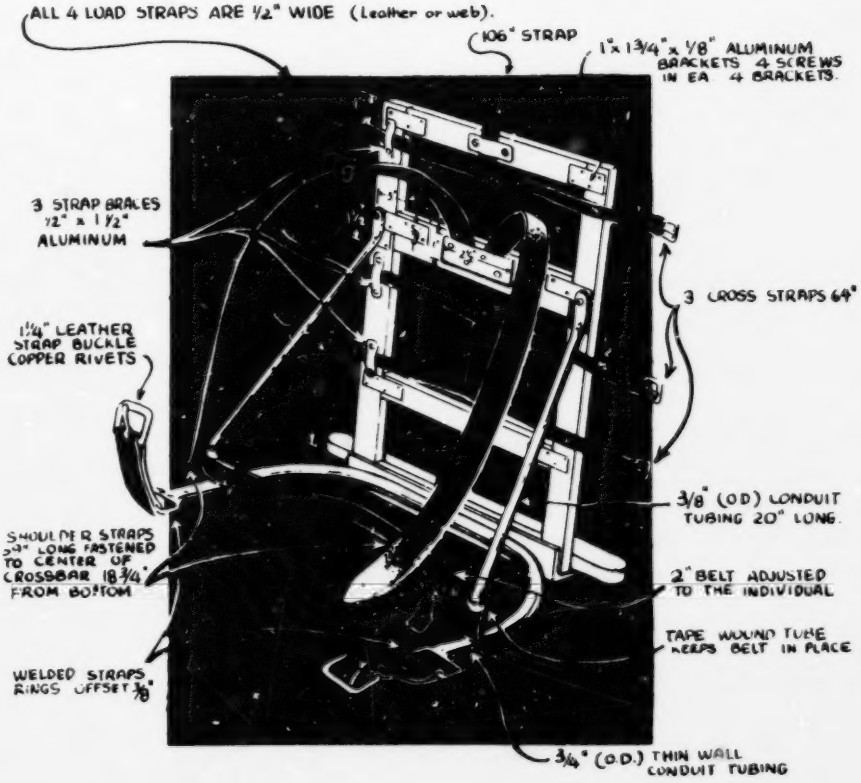




Corrected 1977

THE ALBERTA PACK BOARD

How to Make It

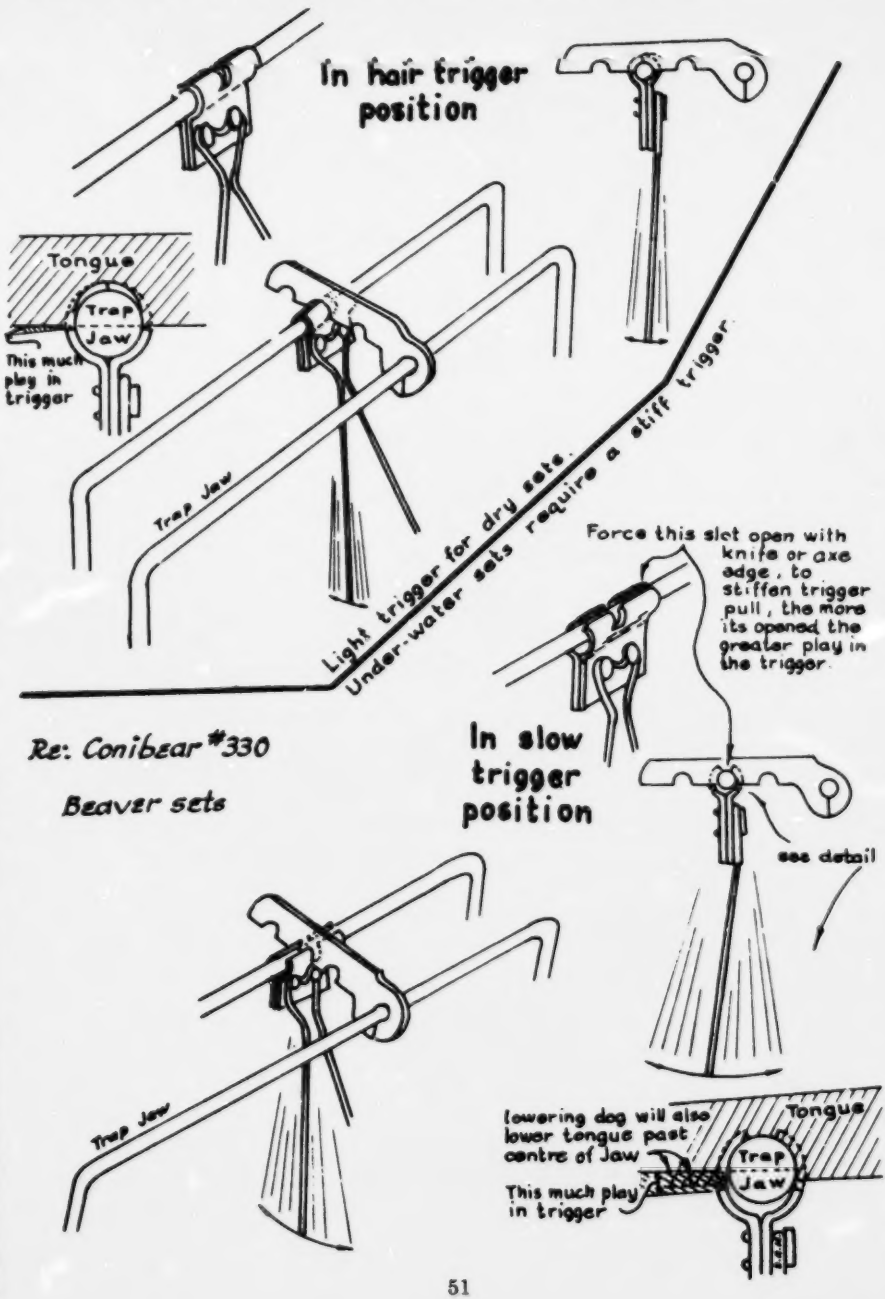

ALL 4 LOAD STRAPS ARE ½" WIDE (Leather or web).
106" STRAP
1"x 1¾"x ⅛" ALUMINUM BRACKETS 4 SCREWS IN EA 4 BRACKETS.
3 STRAP BRALES ½" x 1½" ALUMINUM
3 CROSS STRAPS 64"
1¼" LEATHER STRAP BUCKLE COPPER RIVETS
⅜" (O.D) CONDUIT TUBING 20" LONG.
SHOULDER STRAPS 54" LONG FASTENED TO CENTER OF CROSSBAR 18¾" FROM BOTTOM
2" BELT ADJUSTED TO THE INDIVIDUAL
TAPE WOUND TUBE KEEPS BELT IN PLACE
WELDED STRAPS RINGS OFFSET ⅜"
¾" (O.D.) THIN WALL CONDUIT TUBING

Alberta Dept. of
Lands and Forests

JOE THORNE #330 CONIBEAR TRAP TRIGGER ADJUSTMENT

Strong elastic or strip of inner tube, tied to trap hinges, then stretched tightly over trigger dog will make it almost impossible for small animals and current to spring a trap set in this manner, yet beaver and otter may spring it readily.

CONIBEAR TRAP TRIGGER ADJUSTMENT


In hair trigger position
Tongue
Trap Jaw
This much play in trigger
Trap Jaw
Light trigger for dry sets.
Under-water sets require a stiff trigger
Force this slot open with knife or axe edge, to stiffen trigger pull, the more its opened the greater play in the trigger.
In slow trigger position
see detail
Trap Jaw
lowering dog will also lower tongue past centre of Jaw
Tongue
Trap Jaw
This much play in trigger

Re: Conibear #330

Beaver sets

CANADA NET PRICES TO TRAPPERS

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE)

POSTAGE PREPAID

ON ONEIDA STEEL TRAP PARTS

VICTOR TRAP PARTS

Size	Springs	Chains with Swivel	Jaws (Interchangeable)	Pans with Shanks	Bottom Cross and Dog	Pan Blank Bottom Cross and Dog	Swivels	Dogs	Guard Spring and Pin
	Doz.	Doz.	(Single Jaws) Doz.	Doz	Doz.	Doz	Doz	Doz	Doz
0	2 20	3 60	1 50	1 10	3 15	4 20	1 50	1 05	
1	2 05	2 85	1 50	1 30	3 15	4 05	1 80	1 05	
1½	2 85	3 60	1 50	1 10	6 25	7 65	1 80	1 05	4 50
1½	4 05	3 20	2 40	1 95	6 00	7 80	1 50	1 15	
2	4 05	3 20	2 40	1 95	6 00	7 80	1 50	1 15	
3	7 45	6 25	4 05	2 03	7 65	10 20	1 60	1 30	
4	8 02	8 25	5 55	2 85	9 60	12 15	1 80	1 30	

ONEIDA JUMP TRAP PARTS

Size	Springs	Chains with Swivel	Jaws (Interchangeable)	Pans with Shanks	Cross Pins and Dog	Bottoms with Rivets	Swivels	Dogs	Guard Spring and Pin
	Doz	Doz.	(Single Jaws) Doz.	Doz.	Doz	Doz	Doz	Doz	Doz
0	2 20	1 85	1 50	1 50	5 80		85	1 05	
1	2 85	1 85	1 60	1 50	7 00	3 20	85	1 05	4 50
1½	2 85	3 30	1 60	1 50	7 00	3 30	85	1 05	
1½	3 75	3 15	2 85	1 60	5 80	3 15	1 05	1 15	
2	6 00	3 15	4 65	2 60	6 00	6 45	1 05	1 15	
3	9 75	5 70	5 00	3 60	7 60	8 80	2 05	1 30	
4	11 25	7 65	5 60	3 60	8 10	10 80	2 05	1 30	
14	11 25	9 25	11 80	2 85	8 10	10 80	2 05	1 30	

NEWHOUSE TRAP PARTS

Size	Springs	Chains with Swivel	Jaws	Pans with Shanks	Pan Blank Bottom, Cross and Dog	Swivels	Dogs	Pan Posts	Jaw Posts with Nuts
	Doz	Doz	(Single Jaws) Doz.	Doz	Doz	Doz	Doz	Doz	Doz
2	8 15	27 15	11 70	7 80	25 35	7 80	2 05	2 85	7 80
4	10 95	27 15	14 00	9 15	29 20	7 80	2 05	2 85	9 00
14	10 95	27 15	15 55	9 15	29 20	7 80	2 05	2 85	9 00
1½	21 10	36 00	23 35	9 15	32 00	7 80	2 40	2 85	11 70
66	19 80	54 25	15 55	9 15	29 20	7 80	2 05	2 85	9 00
6½	21 10	124 00	29 30	20 65	72 60		2 05	9 75	11 70
1½	71 70	77 60	83 15	29 30	267 95		11 70	11 70	34 90
50	85 30	91 25	83 15	32 00	333 00		13 65	13 65	39 70
4	260 65	104 35	116 70	77 20	420 65		18 55	17 30	34 75

VICTOR COIL SPRING PARTS

Size	Coil Spring	Chains Complete	Jaws	Pans	Bottom Cross Post & Dog	Lever	Swivels	Dogs	Spring Pin
	(Single Spr.) Doz.	1 Doz.	(Single Jaws) Doz.	Doz.	Doz	Doz	Doz	Doz	Doz
1½	50	2 15	2 85	1 20	8 95	1 05	1 05	1 15	1 50
2½	4 05	5 60	3 85	1 95	10 60	1 95	1 85	1 50	1 50

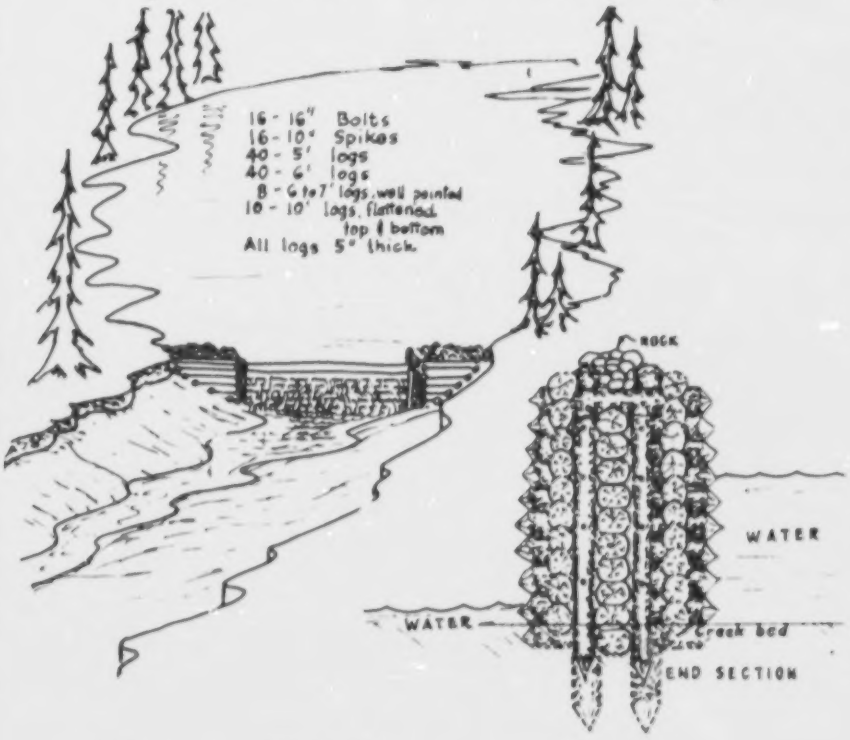
VICTOR CONIBEAR TRAP PARTS

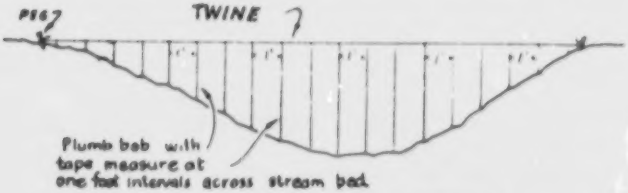
	Springs	Chains Complete	Inside Jaws	Outside Jaws	Trigger Complete	Safety Hooks	Safety Rings	Dogs	Jaw Rivets
110	6 75	1 95	5 35	5 60	1 90			1 05	45
330	27 75	6 85	29 80	28 75	7 50	70	4 10	3 60	1 70

WOODSTREAM CORPORATION · NIAGARA FALLS, ONT.

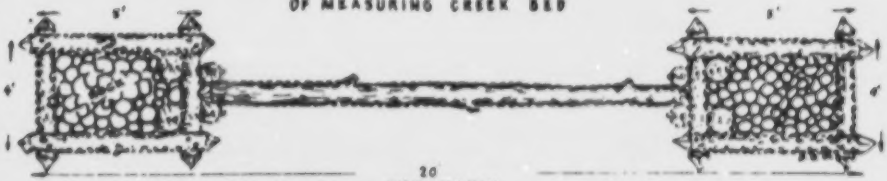
EXPERIMENTAL TRAPLINE
TRAPPERS LOG WATER CONTROL DAM

(LARGE SCALE PLANS ARE AVAILABLE)



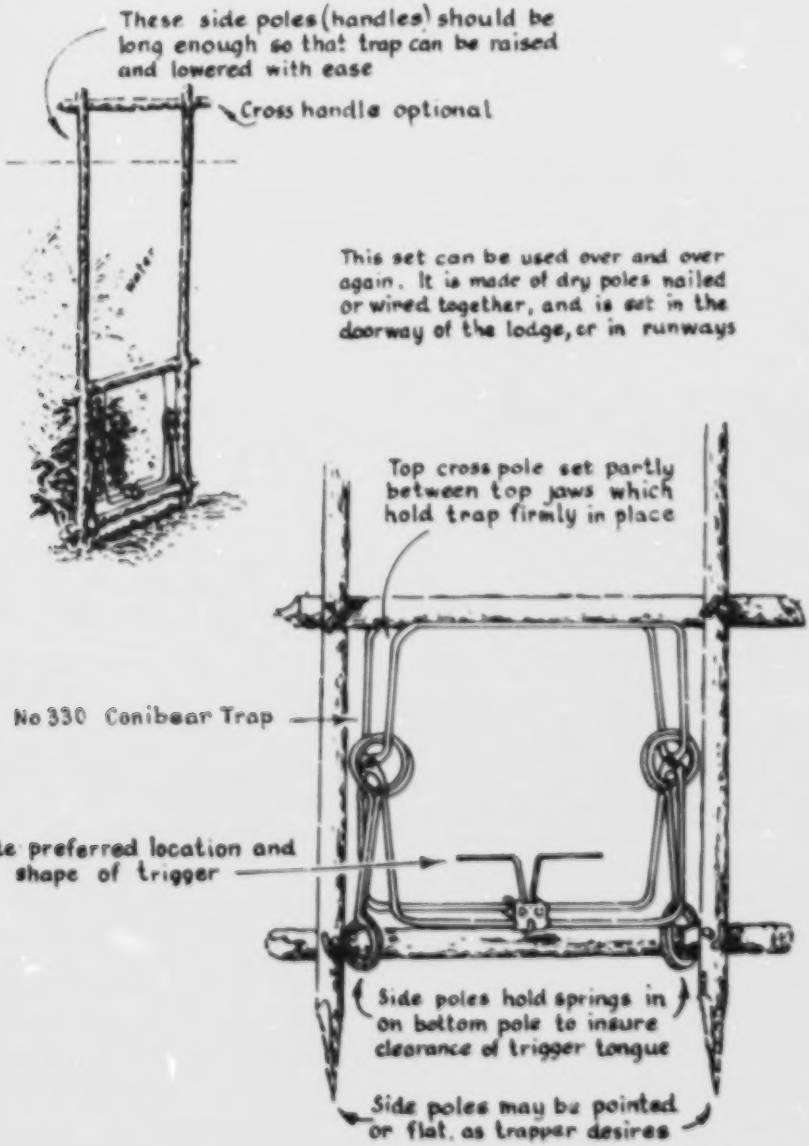


CROSS VIEW ON METHOD OF MEASURING CREEK BED

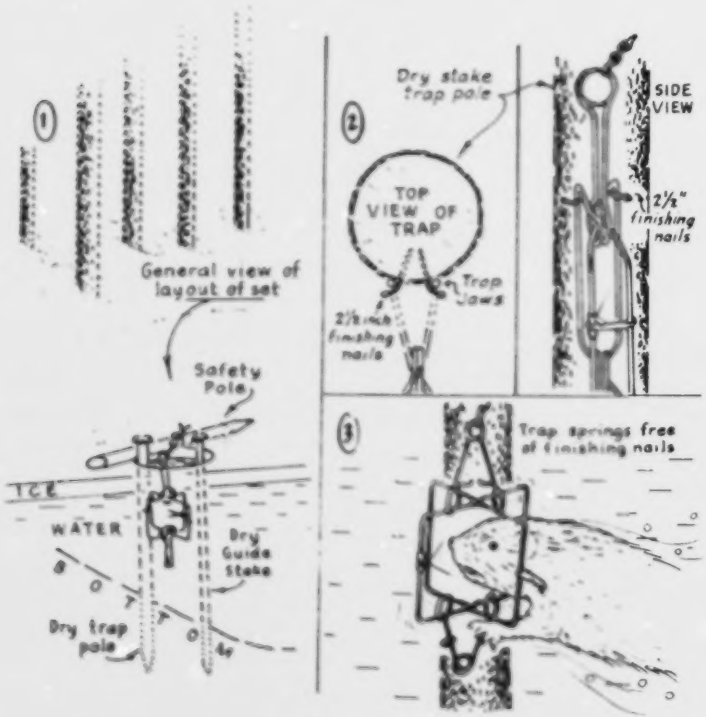


TOP VIEW

GILBERT GRAWBARGER METHOD OF HANGING #330 CONIBEAR TRAP AT BEAVER SET

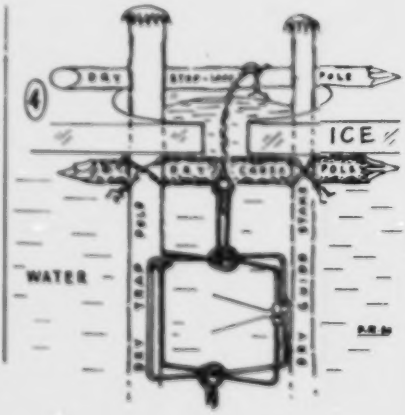

These side poles (handles) should be long enough so that trap can be raised and lowered with ease
Cross handle optional
water
This set can be used over and over again. It is made of dry poles nailed or wired together, and is set in the doorway of the lodge, or in runways
Top cross pole set partly between top jaws which hold trap firmly in place
No 330 Conibear Trap
Note preferred location and shape of trigger
Side poles hold springs in on bottom pole to insure clearance of trigger tongue
Side poles may be pointed or flat, as trapper desires

ERIC COLLIER #330 CONIBEAR UNDER-ICE BEAVER SET



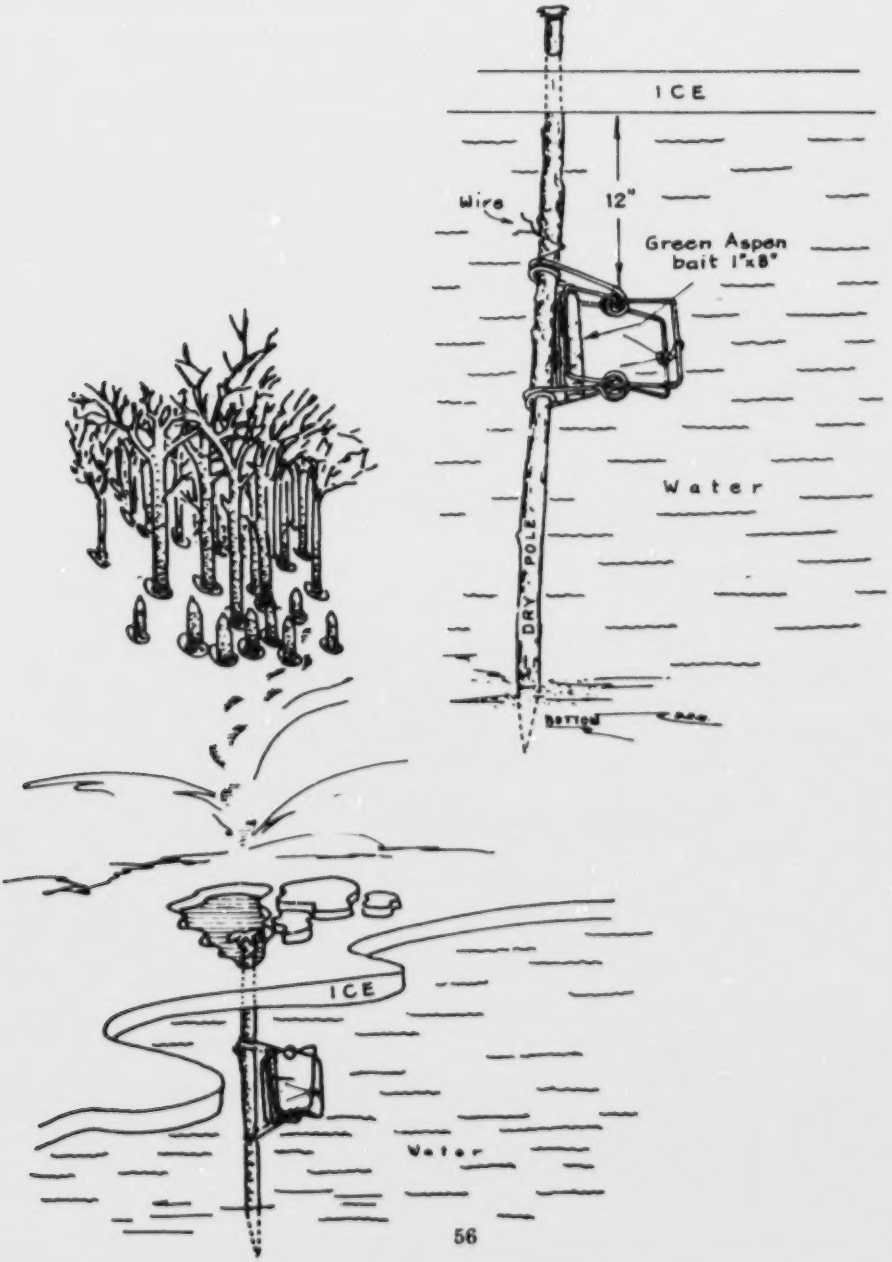
NOTE: The trap is hung suspended by two finishing nails, which hold the trap in place yet allow it to snap shut without obstruction.

In deeper water a dry pole might be placed crosswise above the trap to force beaver downward and into trap as in figure 4.

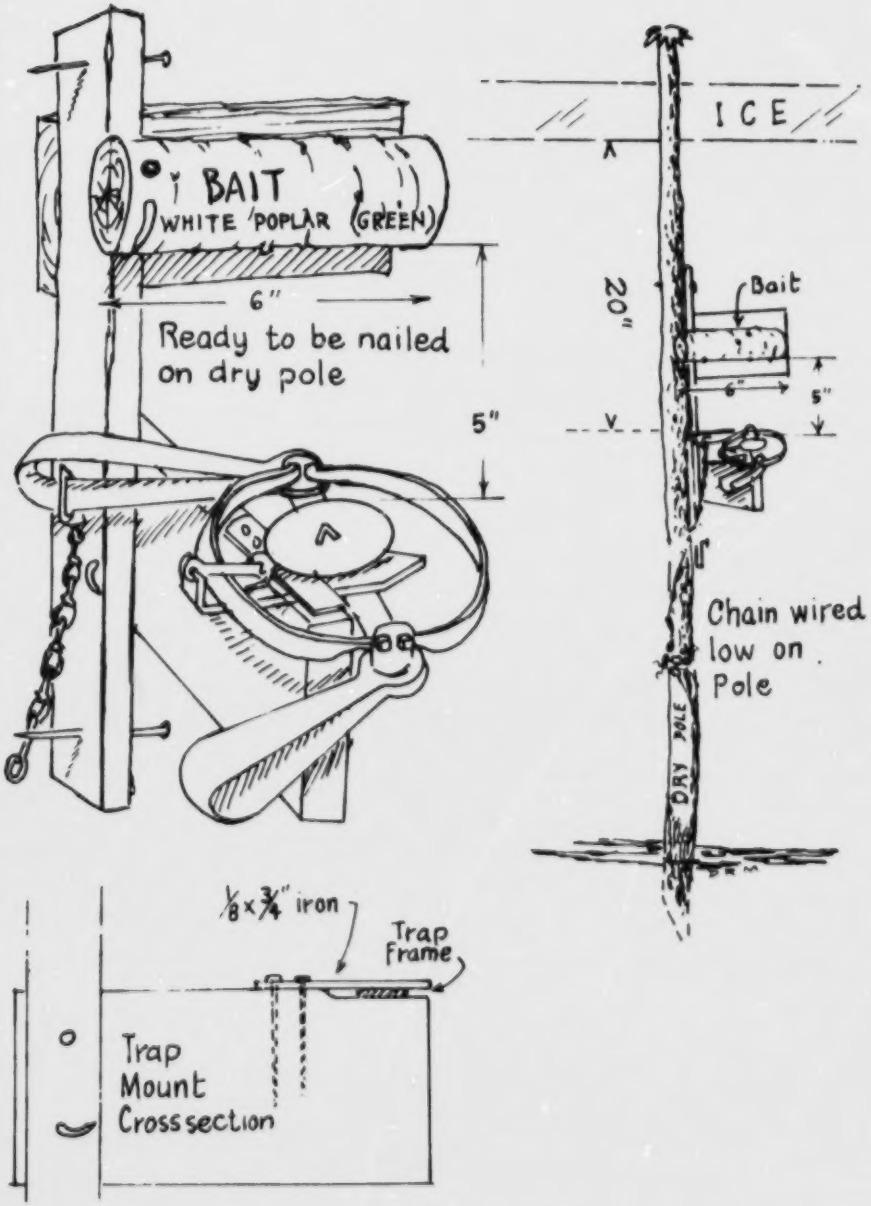


This is a set designed by Eric Collier, of Kiska Creek B.C. and forwarded by W.A. McKay, Fur Biologist of the Fish and Game Br. Victoria B.C.

UNDER-ICE CONIBEAR SINGLE POLE SET

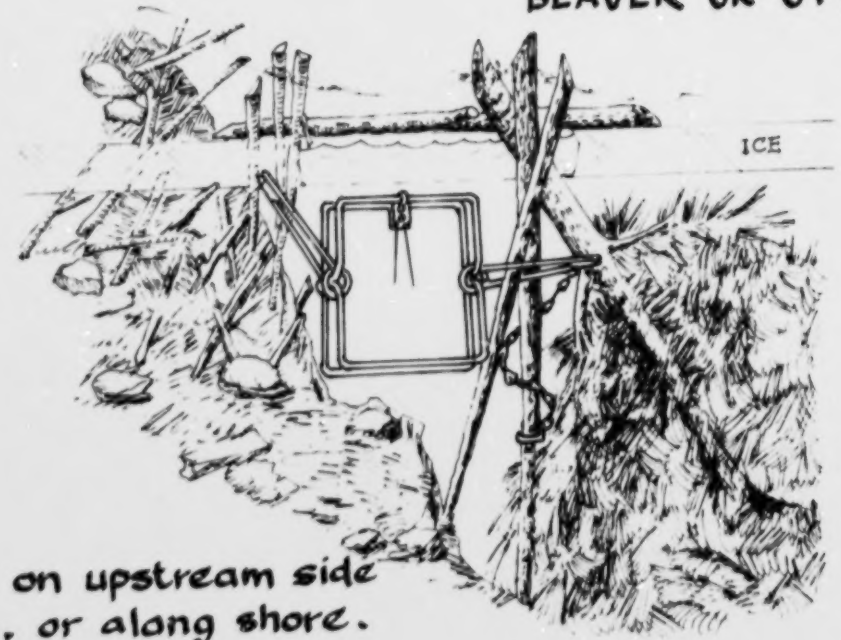


GEORGE ZIMMER BEAVER SET RIG



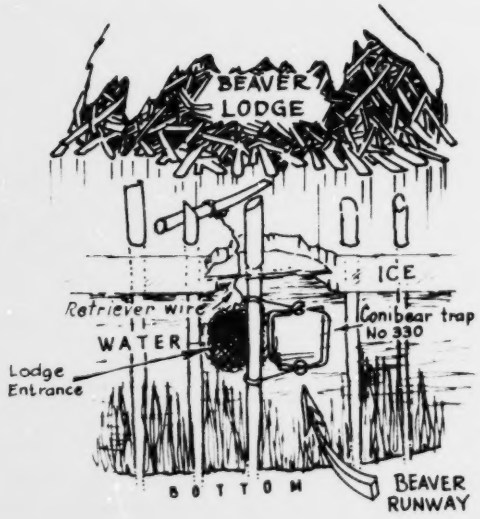
MANITOBA TRAPPER EDUCATION
FROM PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

BEAVER OR OTTER SET



#330 Conibear on upstream side of beaver dam, or along shore. No bait is used for this set.

GARFIELD LOWE ~
SHALLOW WATER CONIBEAR BEAVER SET

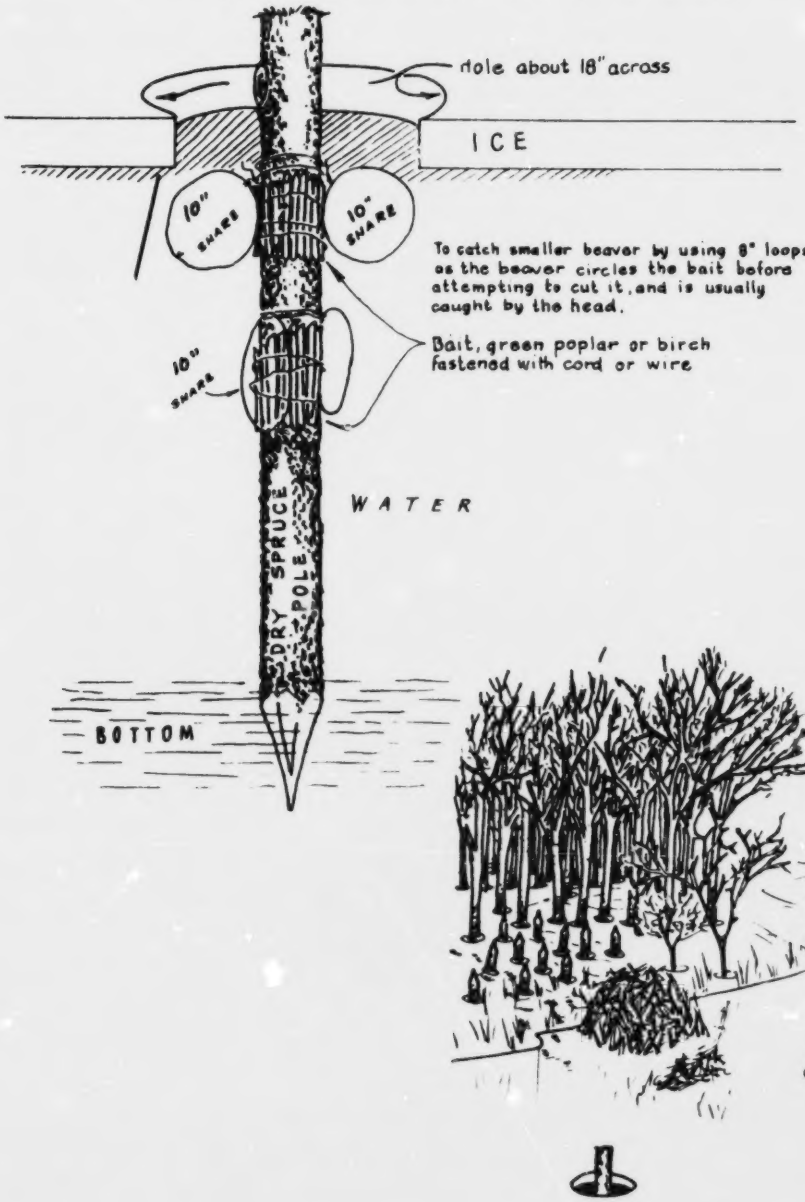


No bait is necessary

Block off lodge with dry stakes, leaving a space at the runway, install the set shown at the top using a conibear trap #330

Note: Position of trigger is very important.

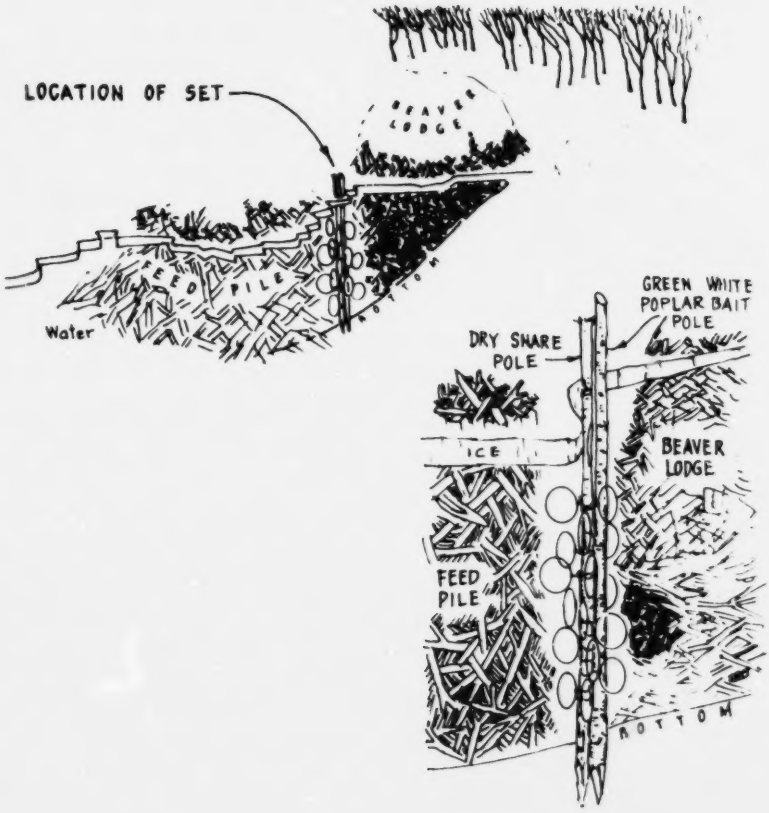
SNARE SET FOR BEAVER

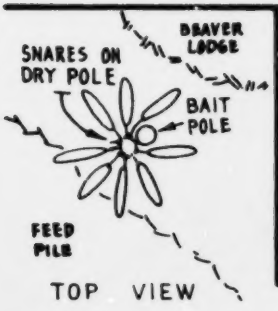

Hole about 18" across
ICE
10" SNARE
10" SNARE
10" SNARE
To catch smaller beaver by using 8" loops, as the beaver circles the bait before attempting to cut it, and is usually caught by the head.
Bait, green poplar or birch fastened with cord or wire
WATER
DRY SPRUCE POLE
BOTTOM

EXPERIMENTAL TRAPLINE
BEAVER SNARE SHORE SET

SHOWING SET IN WAITING POSITION
10" Snare fastened to anchor rock
Dry light float pole tied with 6' wire to rock.
Small dry guide stick on shore line
15 lbs rock, covered with mud and weeds
RUNWAY
Green Mile poplar (Aspen) lure sticks crossed behind snare about 18" back.
Hay ball scent lure tied on dry stick and soaked with Beaver Castor
Dry wood retrieve pole floats on surface
SHOWING SET IN SPRUNG POSITION

EXPERIMENTAL TRAPLINE
MASS-SNARE UNDER ICE BEAVER SET



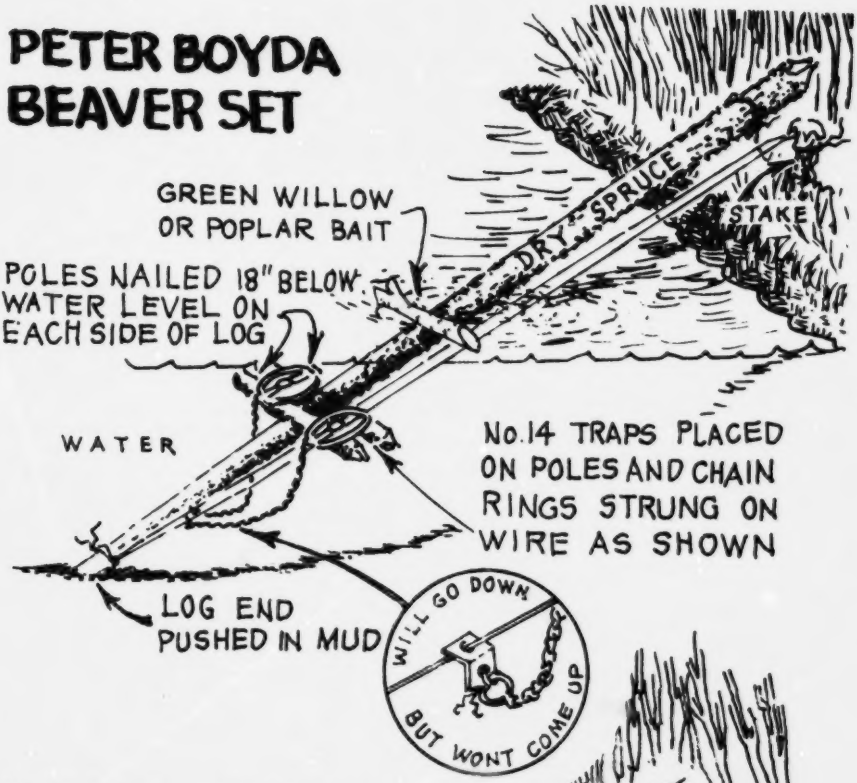


NOTE

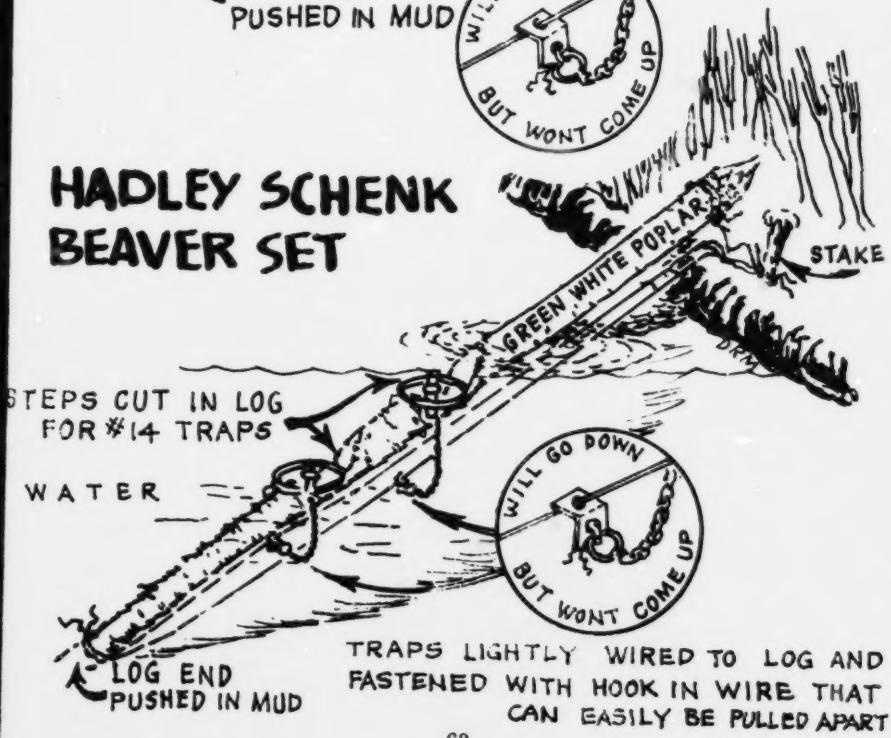
One or more sets may be used. 10" snares are set in all directions from the bait pole, and the more snares, the greater chance of making a catch

This set usually produces a high average of smaller beaver.

PETER BOYDA BEAVER SET


GREEN WILLOW OR POPLAR BAIT
POLES NAILED 18" BELOW WATER LEVEL ON EACH SIDE OF LOG
DRY SPRUCE
STAKE
WATER
No.14 TRAPS PLACED ON POLES AND CHAIN RINGS STRUNG ON WIRE AS SHOWN
LOG END PUSHED IN MUD
WILL GO DOWN
BUT WONT COME UP

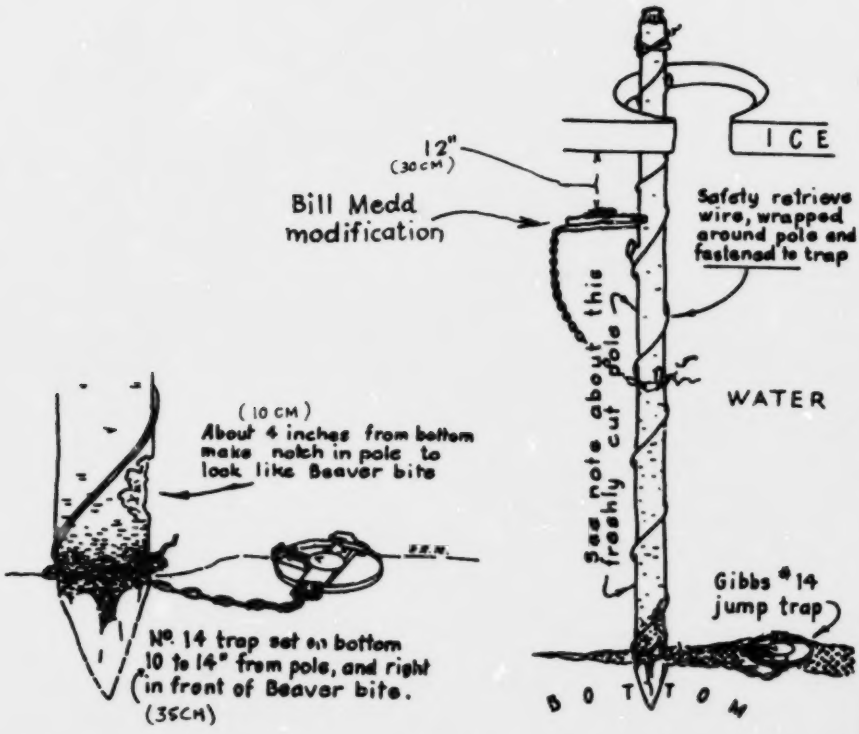
HADLEY SCHENK BEAVER SET


GREEN WHITE POPLAR
STAKE
STEPS CUT IN LOG FOR #14 TRAPS
WATER
WILL GO DOWN
BUT WONT COME UP
LOG END PUSHED IN MUD
TRAPS LIGHTLY WIRED TO LOG AND FASTENED WITH HOOK IN WIRE THAT CAN EASILY BE PULLED APART

JOHN BRONCONNIER UNDER-ICE BEAVER TRAP SET, WITH BILL MEDD MODIFICATION

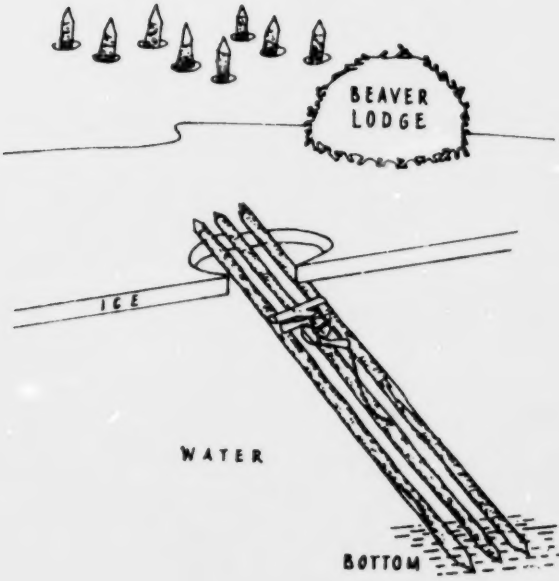
This set can be made anywhere around the lodge or feed pile, where the Beaver will find it when he first comes from the lodge and swims around for a check up.

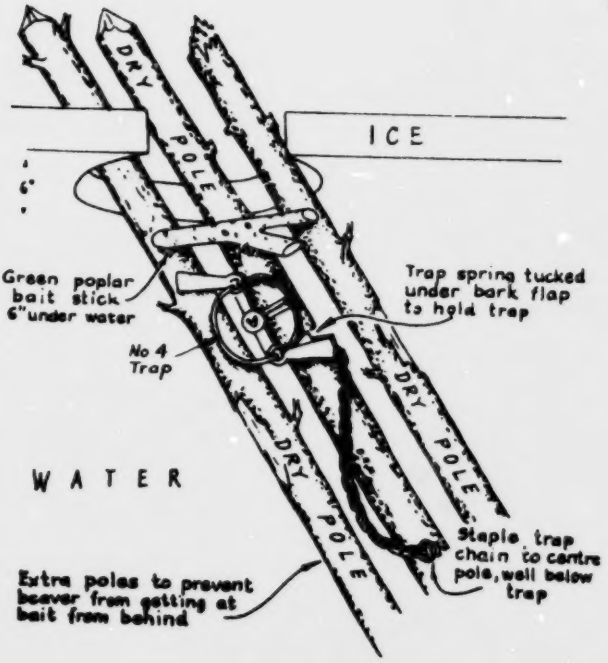
The choice of the set pole is the secret of this set. Check the kind of feed the Beaver has in his feed pile, it will be willow or white poplar, sometimes both but generally more of one kind than the other. If the feed pile is white poplar, then make the set pole from willow··· If the feed pile is willow then make the set pole from white poplar.



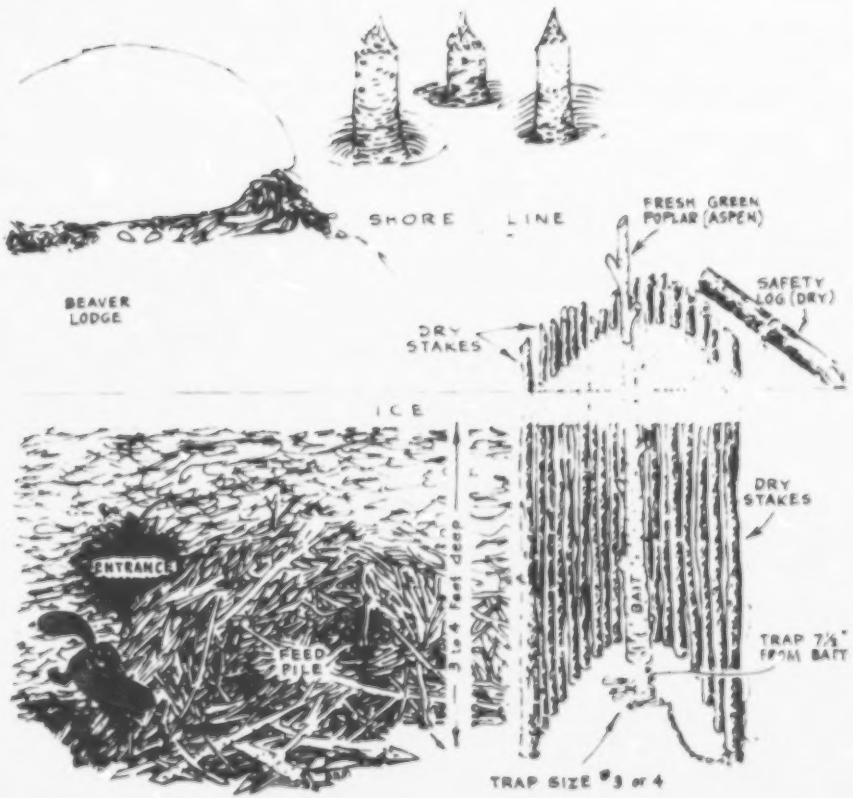
Corrected 1977

3 POLE UNDER-ICE BEAVER SET



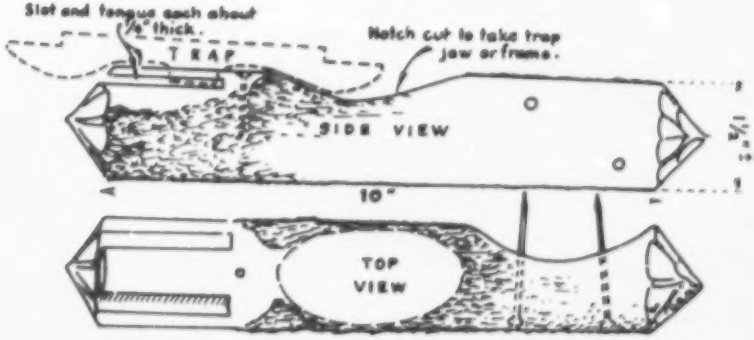

DRY POLE
ICE
6"
Green poplar bait stick 6" under water
No 4 Trap
Trap spring tucked under bark flap to hold trap
DRY POLE
DRY POLE
WATER
Staple trap chain to centre pole, well below trap
Extra poles to prevent beaver from getting at bait from behind

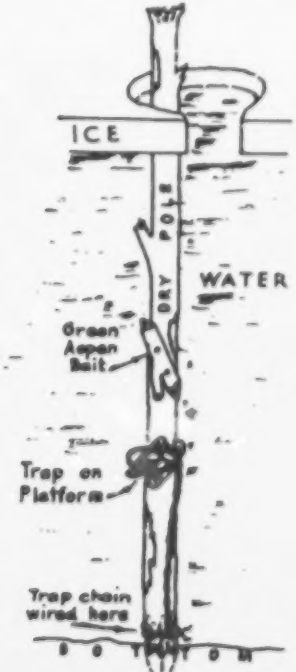
JOHN EVERETTE UNDER ICE BEAVER SET



BILL ANAKA
UNDER-ICE BEAVER TRAP PLATFORM

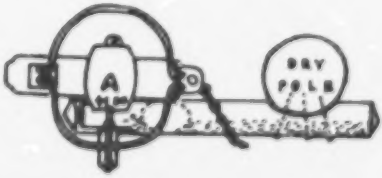
The advantage of this platform is that the trap is less likely to be tipped, as the Beaver reaches to inspect the bait



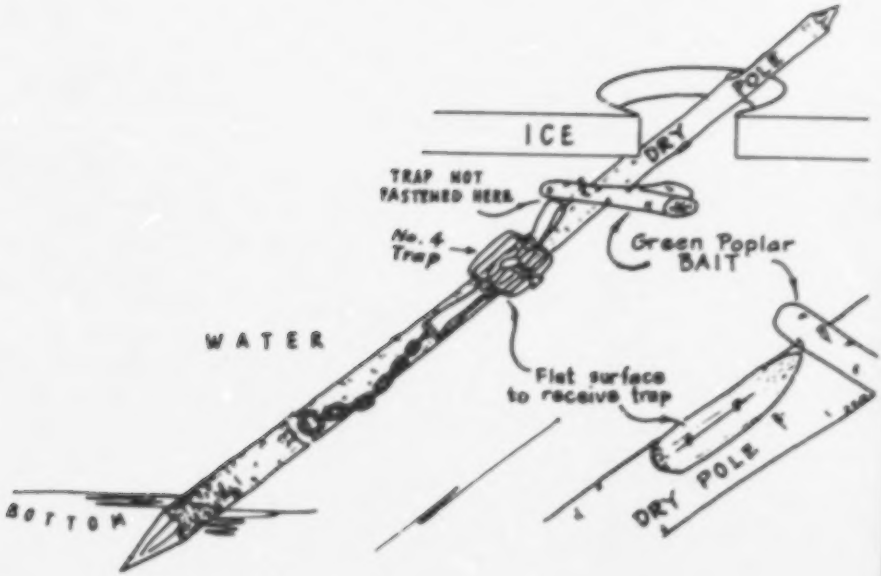


Type of set where platform can be used

Using dry wood remove bark in the area before making slot and tongue



UNDER-ICE BEAVER SET



HAROLD ANDERSON PELT FLESHER

Pelt held firmly by weight of dresser leg
If stump(s) is(are) used, flatten one side as shown
Fleshing log cut at ends as shown, bark removed, and ends rounded
6 Feet

Material - axe, draw knife, 8' x 12" log, sawhorses or stumps, or both.

Instructions:
1. Fleshor log is placed upon prepared supports
2. Pelt (fur down) edge is pinched under fleshor log and stump or sawhorse.
3. Pelt dresser sits astraddle fleshor log
4. Flesh with flat-edged tools

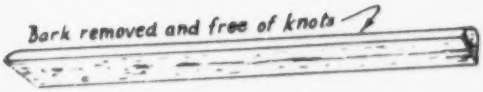
WHITESHELL BEAVER PELT FLESHER
BY MANITOBA CONSERVATION OFFICER
R.J. 'BOB' HUCK

Ways of making legs shown, these should be cut to suit the height of the operator usually between 3 & 4 feet
Canvas apron for use with flesher built to meet size of user
Extra slots or holes for height adjustment
Slots cut in log
Holes bored in log
Draw knives used with flesher
Dry, smooth log. 7 to 8' long with a 10" dia

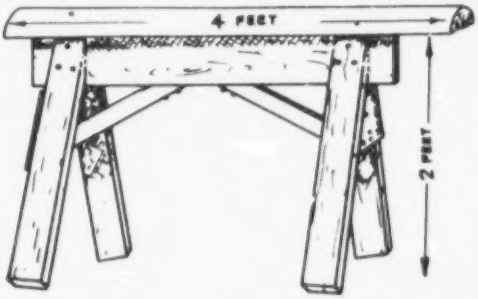
GARFIELD LOWE ~ BEAVER FLESHER

Garfield uses an antler scraper for bellies - and a razor sharp knife for the sides and back.

Trapper sits on box.
The pelt is held by a nail through the tail, away from the trapper, who pulls the other end tight toward himself with one hand, while he pushes the scraper with the other to remove the flesh.



This Flesher is an ordinary carpenters saw-horse with a smooth pine or spruce slab fastened on top with a couple of nails.



This is an exceptionally good rig, and Garfield repeatedly gets top beaver prices due to expert fleshing.
Garfield lives at Mafeking, Manitoba.

WHITESHELL BEAVER PELT FLESHER
BY MANITOBA CONSERVATION OFFICER
R.J. 'BOB' HUCK

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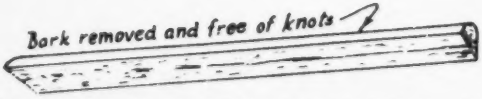
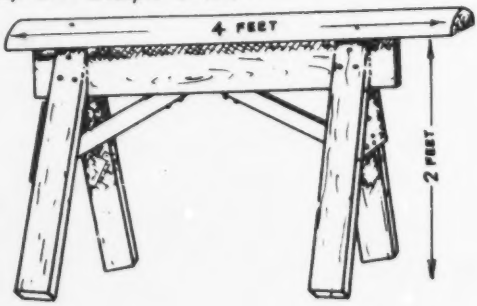
GARFIELD LOWE ~ BEAVER FLESHER

Garfield uses an antler scraper for bellies - and a razor sharp knife for the sides and back.

Trapper sits on box. The pelt is held by a nail through the tail, away from the trapper, who pulls the other end tight toward himself with one hand, while he pushes the scraper with the other to remove the flesh.

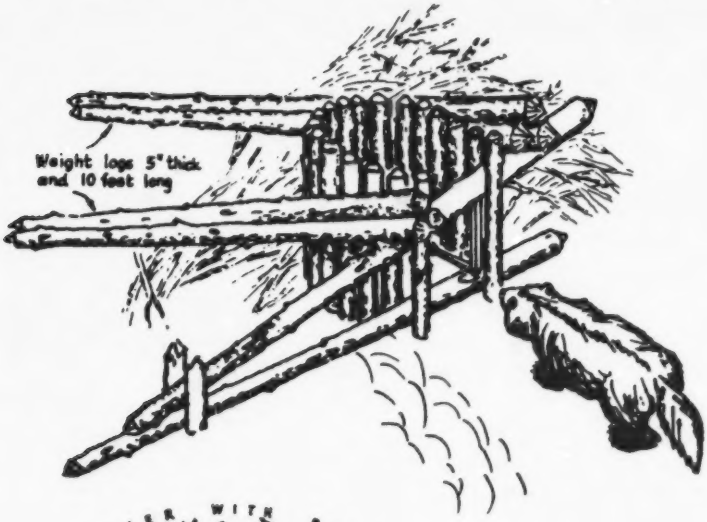


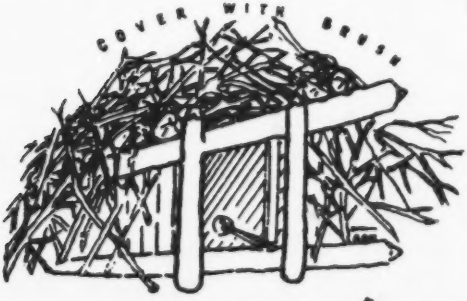
This Flesher is an ordinary carpenters saw-horse with a smooth pine or spruce slab fastened on top with a couple of nails.

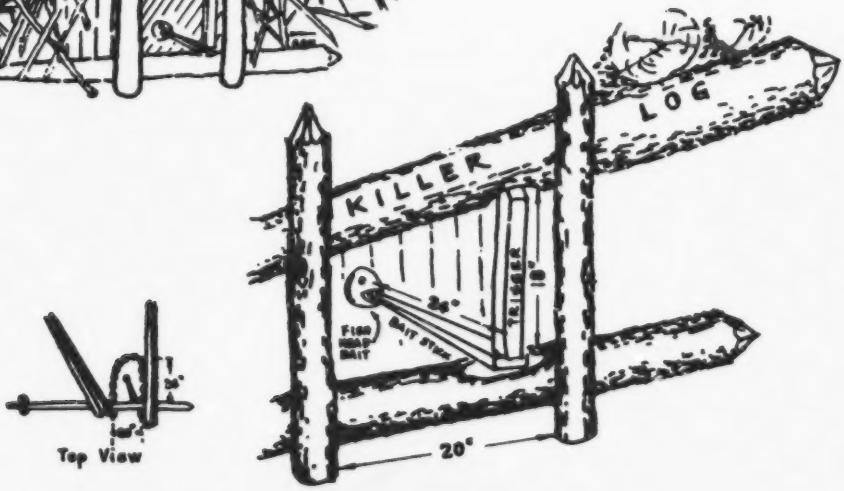


This is an exceptionally good rig, and Garfield repeatedly gets top beaver prices due to expert fleshing. Garfield lives at Mafeking, Manitoba.

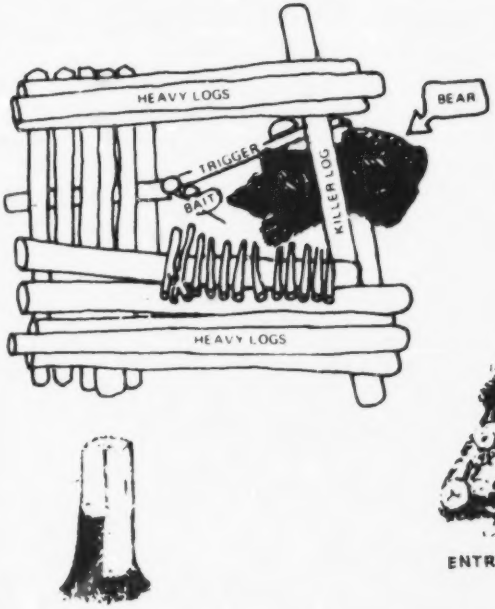
HORACE McCALLUM WOLVERINE DEADFALL

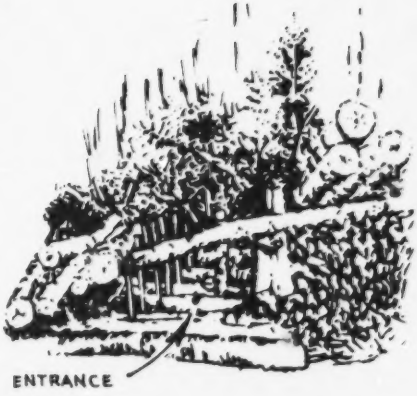






JOE KOWALCHUK BEAR DEADFALL





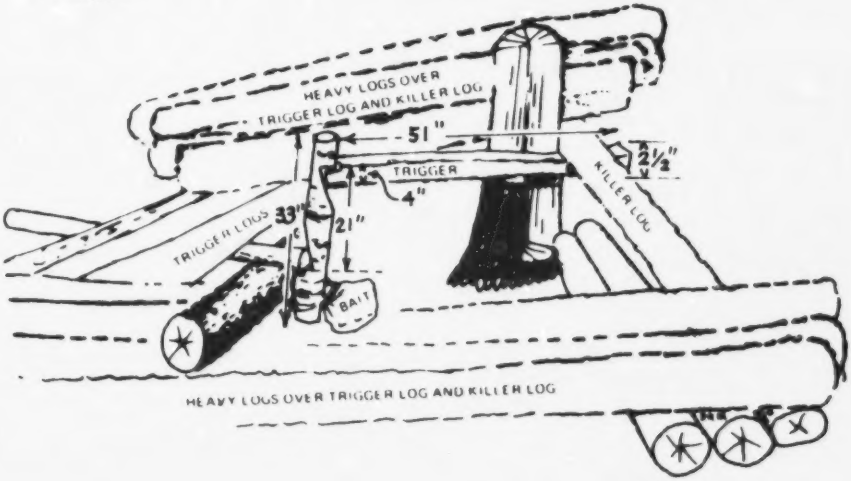
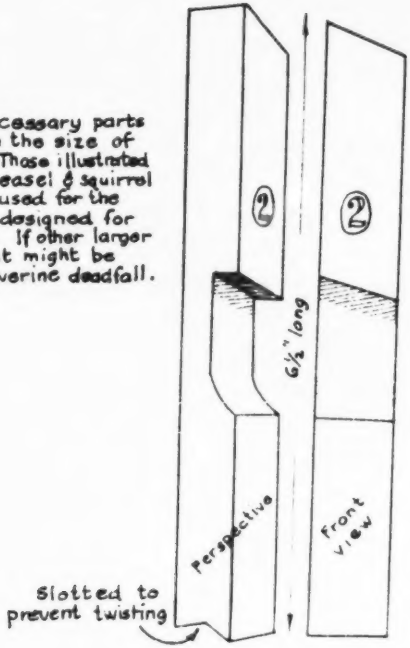
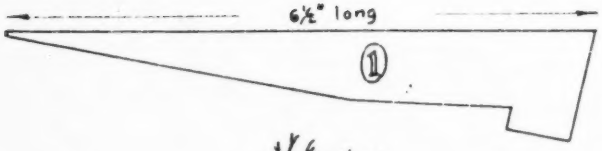
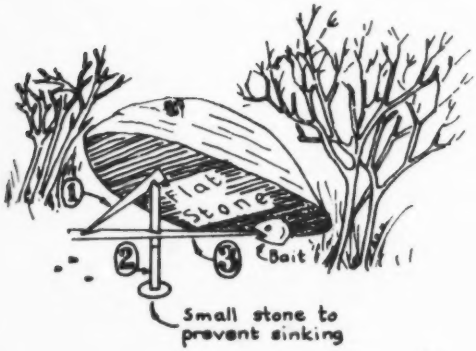


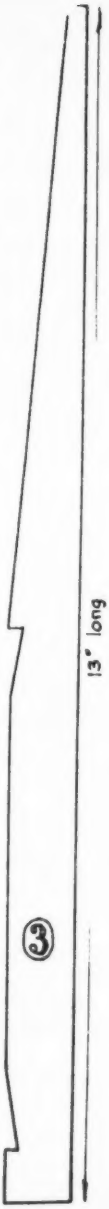
FIGURE 4 DEADFALL

THE DEADFALL:
Actual size of the necessary parts will depend entirely on the size of animal to be trapped, Those illustrated are about the size for weasel & squirrel A large flat rock can be used for the weight. This deadfall is designed for small animals and birds. If other larger animals are to be taken it might be advisable to use the Wolverine deadfall.

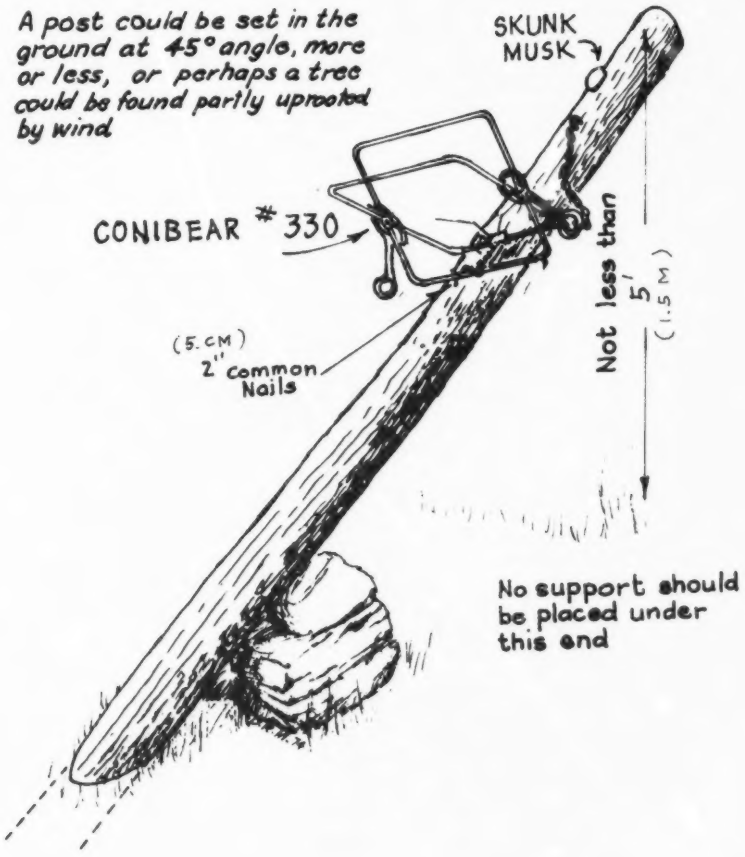






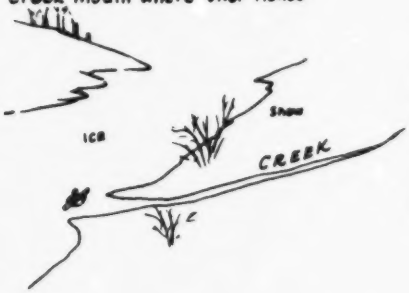


Experimental Trapline
330 Conibear Trap Running Pole Set For Wolverine and Fisher


A post could be set in the ground at 45° angle, more or less, or perhaps a tree could be found partly uprooted by wind
SKUNK MUSK
CONIBEAR # 330
(5. CM) 2" common Nails
Not less than 5' (1.5 M)
No support should be placed under this end

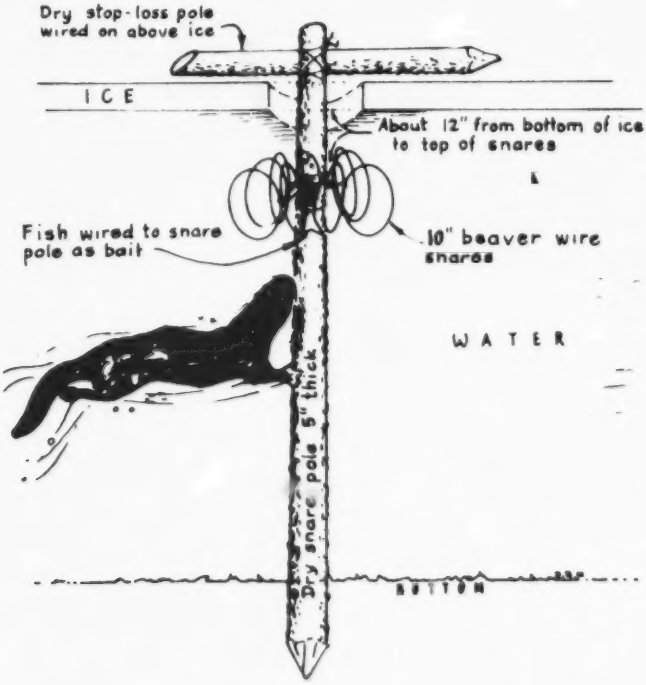
PUKATAWAGAN - OTTER SNARE SET

Locate set in creek where otter travels under ice, or at creek mouth where otter fishes

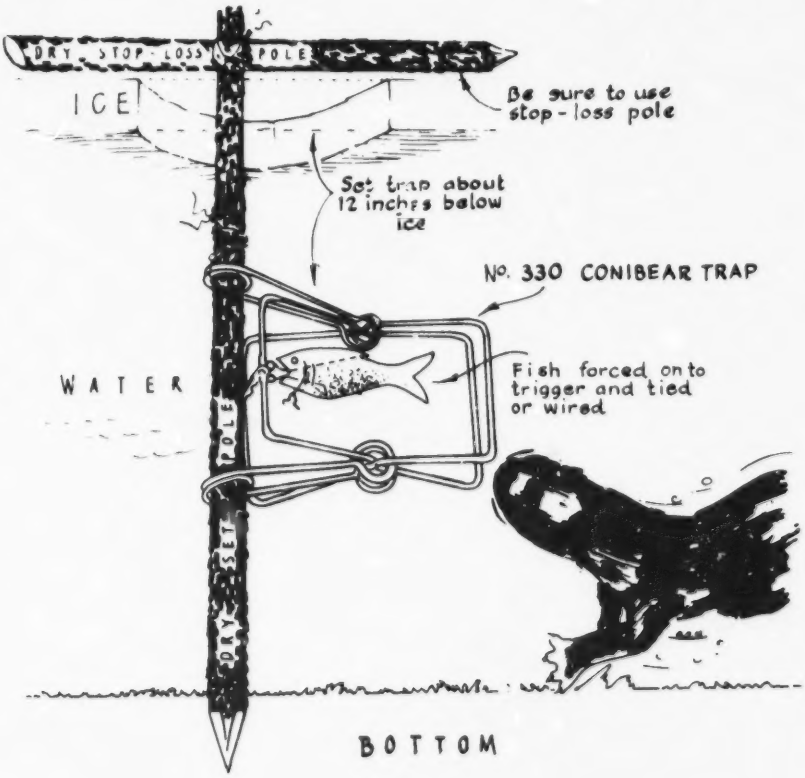


Six or more ten inch beaver wire snares set in star fashion to cover fish bait from all directions, and at least 12 inches from ice

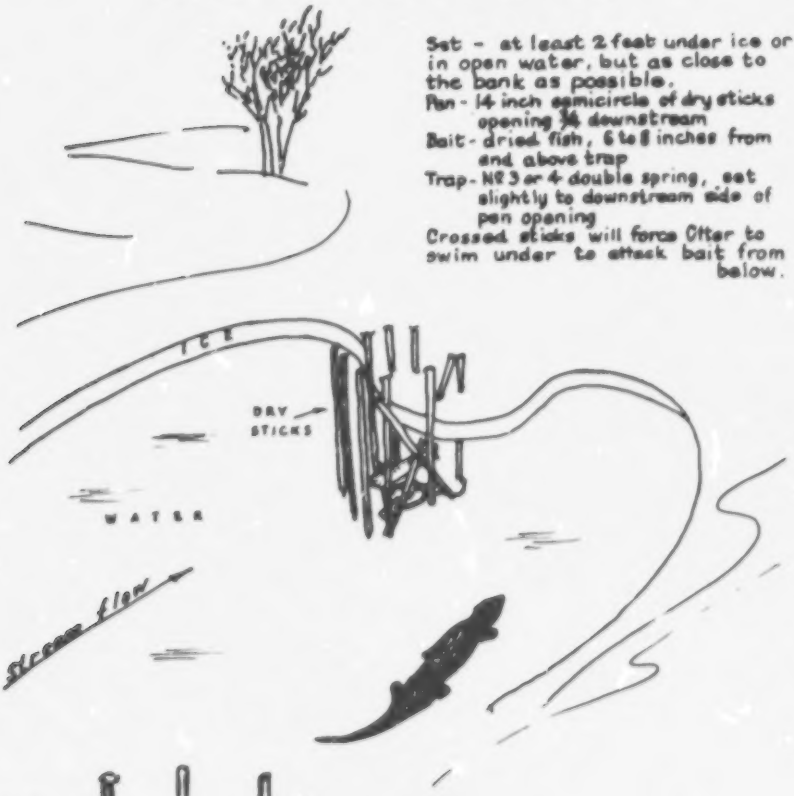
Top view showing method of placing snares on dry pole


Dry stop-loss pole wired on above ice
ICE
About 12" from bottom of ice to top of snares
Fish wired to snare pole as bait
10" beaver wire snares
WATER
Dry snare pole 5" thick
BOTTOM

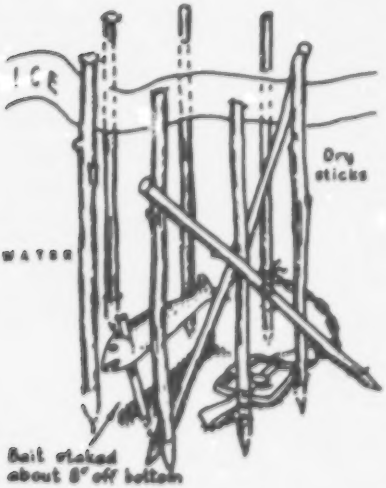
HENRY BRADLEY - CONIBEAR OTTER SET

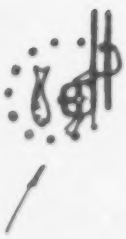


BURTON OTTER SET



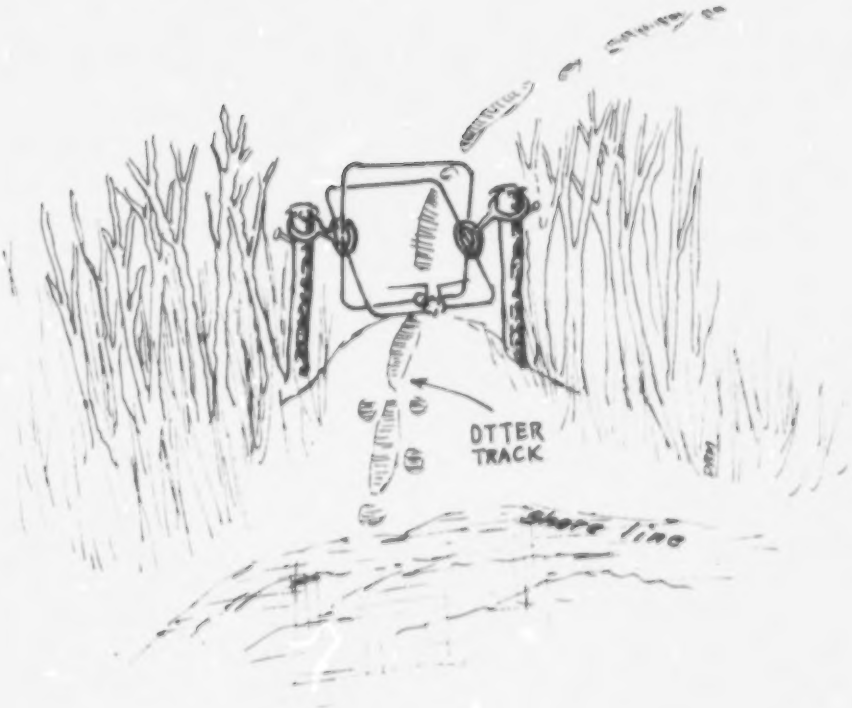
Set - at least 2 feet under ice or in open water, but as close to the bank as possible.
Pen - 14 inch semicircle of dry sticks opening ¾ downstream
Bait - dried fish, 6 to 8 inches from and above trap
Trap - № 3 or 4 double spring, set slightly to downstream side of pen opening
Crossed sticks will force Otter to swim under to attack bait from below.



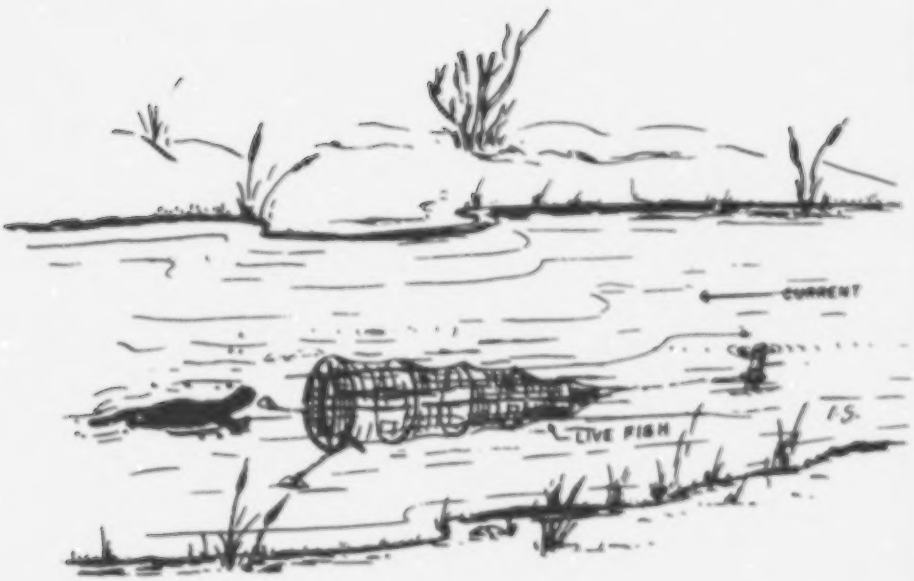


CORKY PETERSON

OTTER SHORELINE TRAIL MOUND SET WITH #330 CONIBEAR TRAP



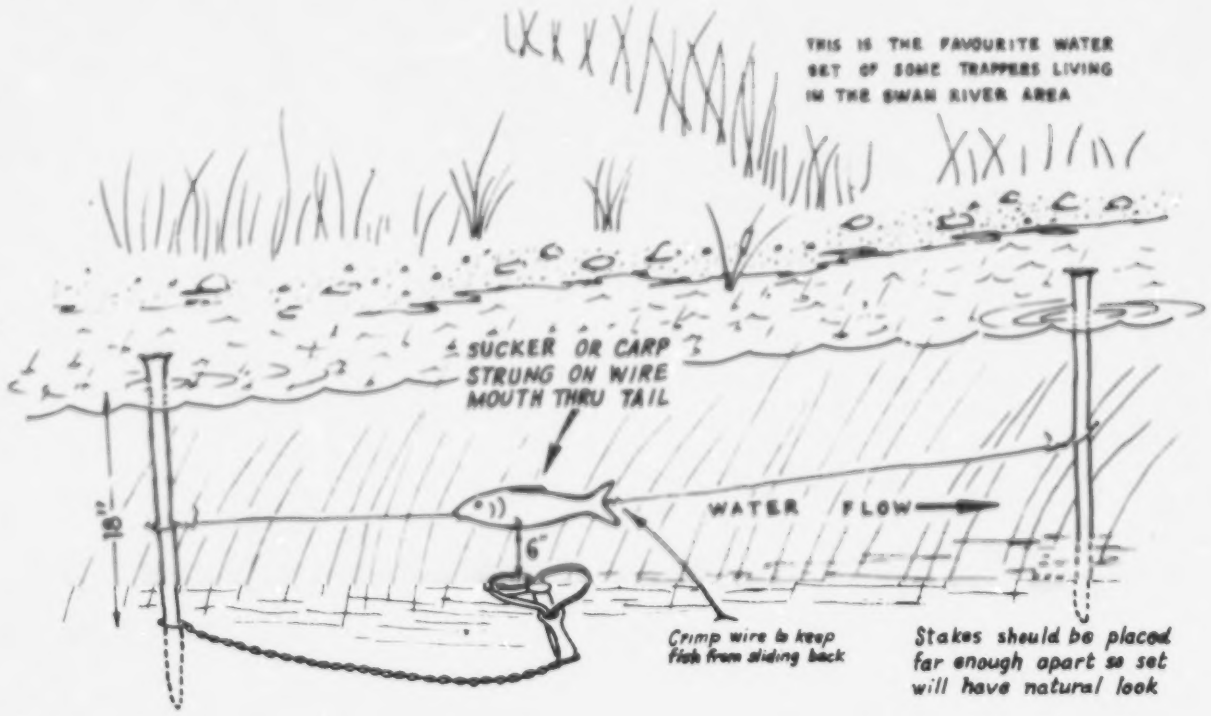
NEWFOUNDLAND OTTER SET



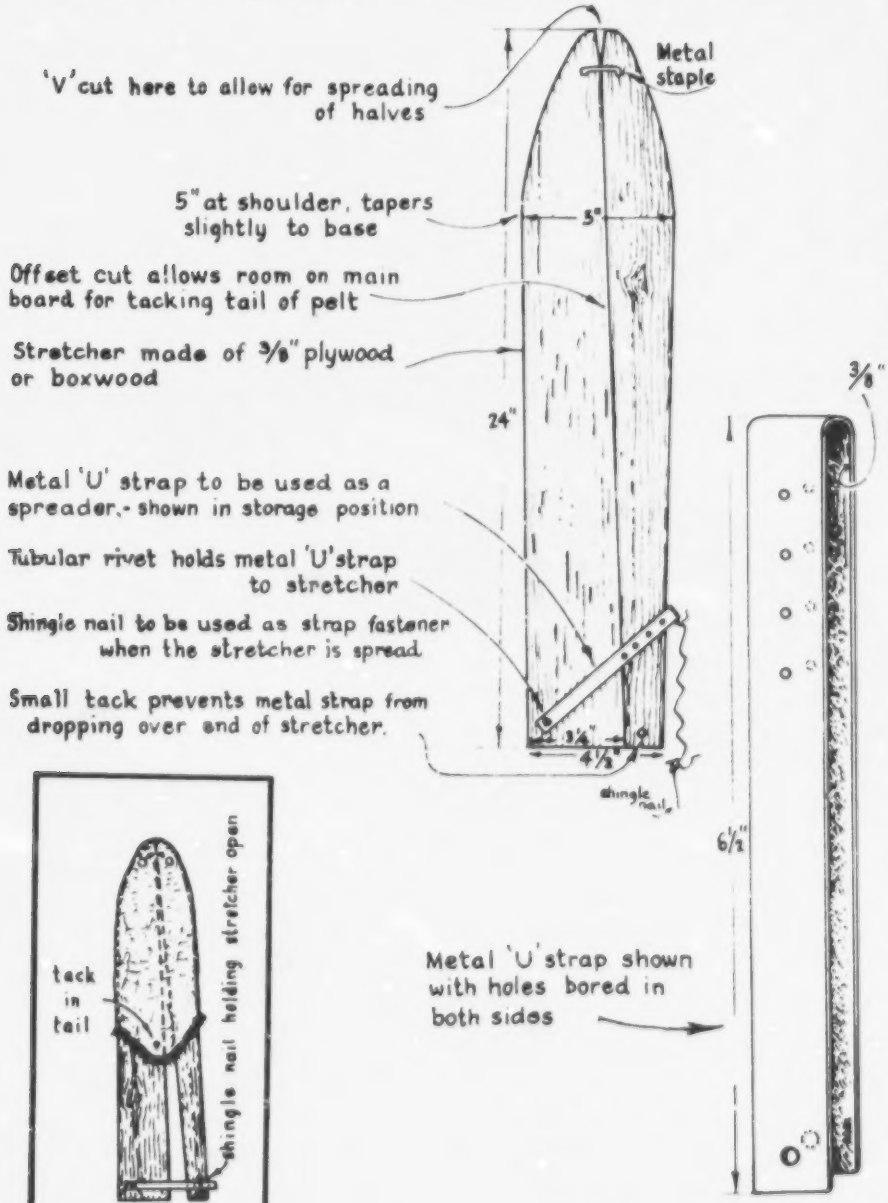
One inch mesh net is 4 feet long (1.2 M) with about 5 flexible tree branches for hoops spaced about 8 inches (20 cm) apart. Largest hoop has 12 inch (30 cm) diameter and smallest has 9 inch (22.5 cm). Top of net is 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 cm) beneath water.

Newfoundland Wildlife Service

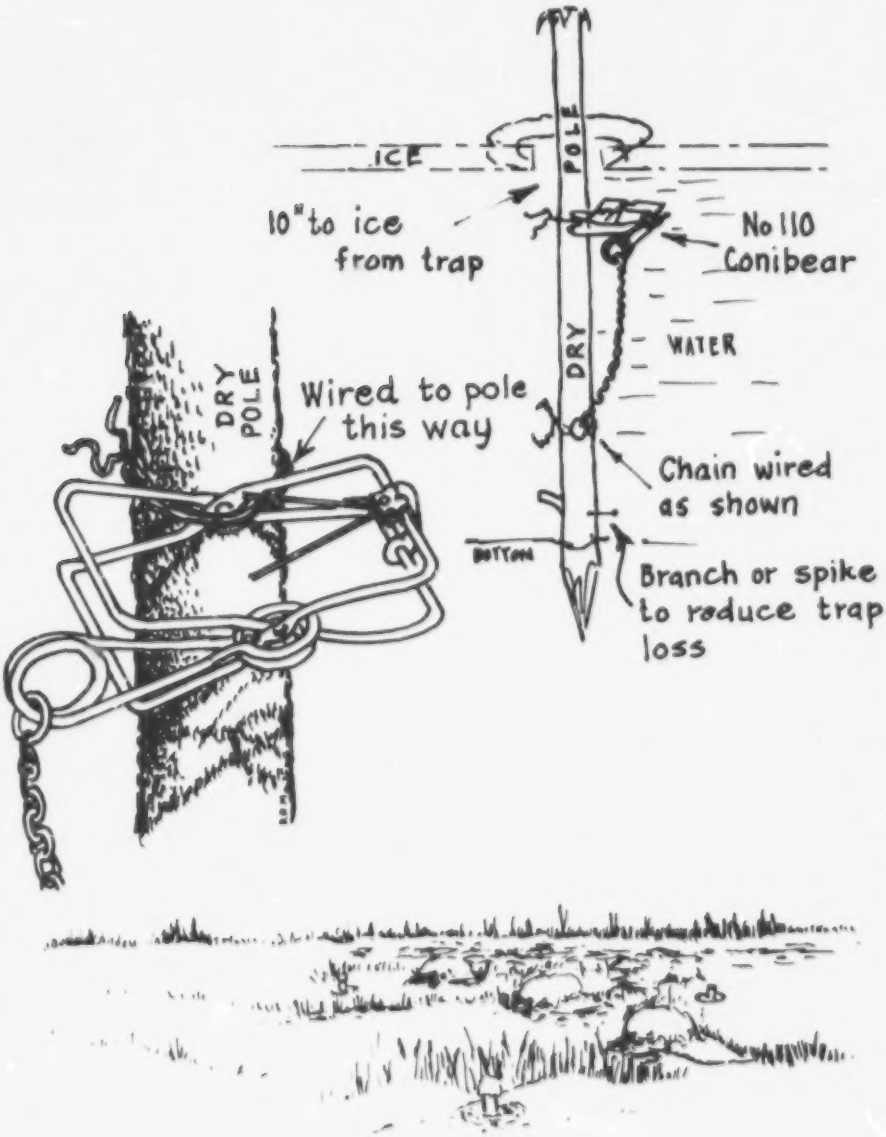
EXPERIMENTAL TRAPLINE MINK AND OTTER WIRED FISH SET


THIS IS THE FAVOURITE WATER SET OF SOME TRAPPERS LIVING IN THE SWAN RIVER AREA
SUCKER OR CARP STRUNG ON WIRE MOUTH THRU TAIL
WATER FLOW
18"
6"
Crimp wire to keep fish from sliding back
Stakes should be placed far enough apart so set will have natural look

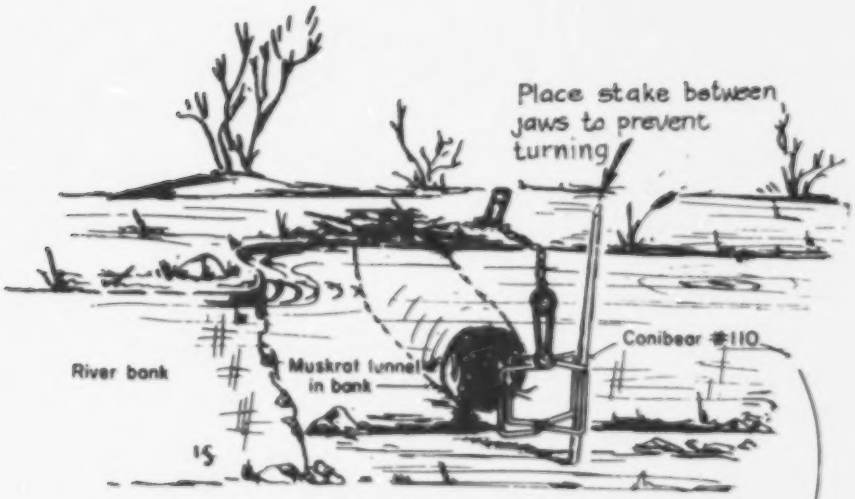
SUMMERBERRY MUSKRAT STRETCHER


'V' cut here to allow for spreading of halves
Metal staple
5" at shoulder, tapers slightly to base
5"
Offset cut allows room on main board for tacking tail of pelt
Stretcher made of 3/8" plywood or boxwood
24"
3/8"
Metal 'U' strap to be used as a spreader,- shown in storage position
Tubular rivet holds metal 'U' strap to stretcher
Shingle nail to be used as strap fastener when the stretcher is spread
Small tack prevents metal strap from dropping over end of stretcher.
3/4"
4 1/2"
shingle nail
6 1/2"
Metal 'U' strap shown with holes bored in both sides
tack in tail
shingle nail holding stretcher open
Stretcher in use

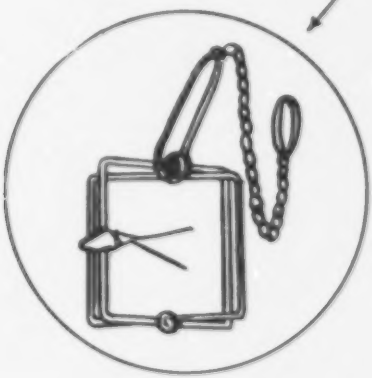
UPRIGHT CONIBEAR MUSKRAT SET



NEWFOUNDLAND MUSKRAT SET



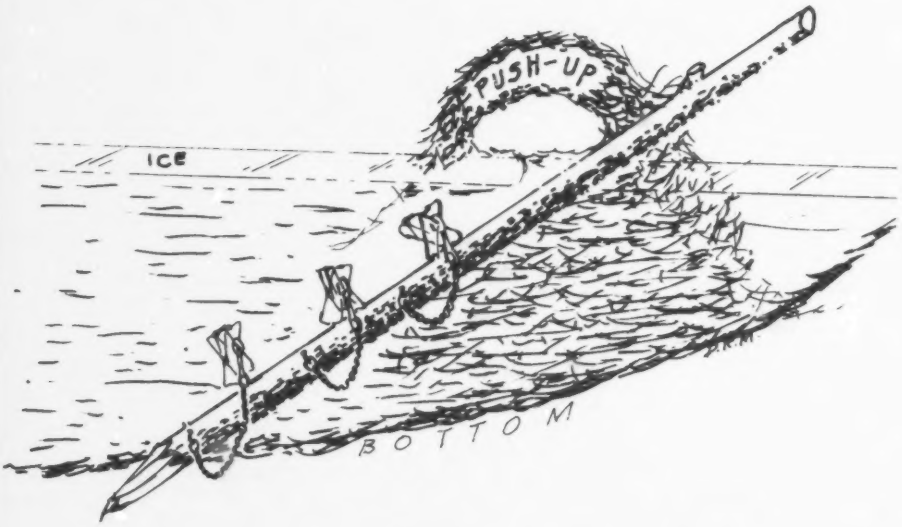
Rest trap on bottom in front of muskrat tunnel, or elevate trap with rocks or sticks if tunnel is too high.

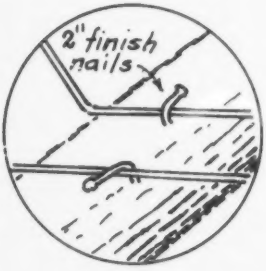


Newfoundland Wildlife Service

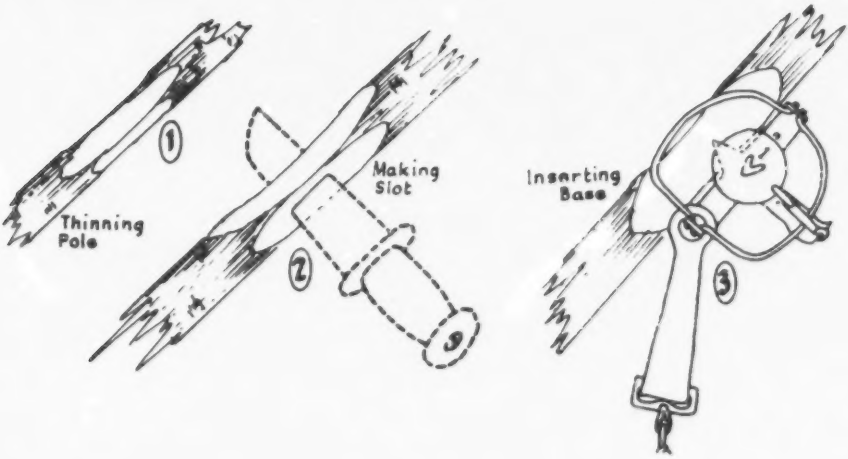
CORKY PETERSON

MUSKRAT PUSH-UP CONIBEAR 110 UNDER-ICE Pole set

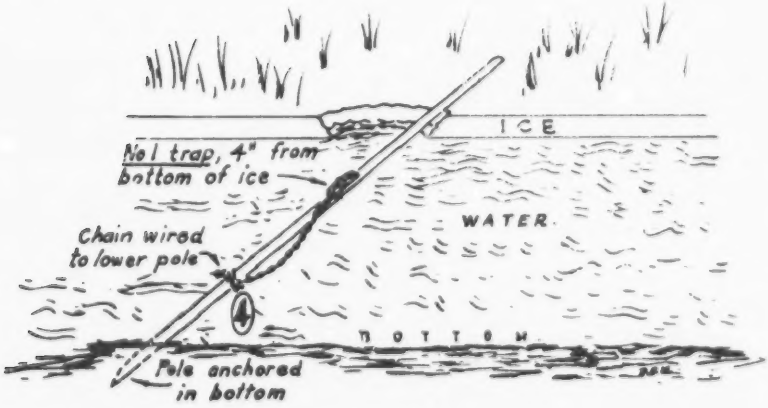




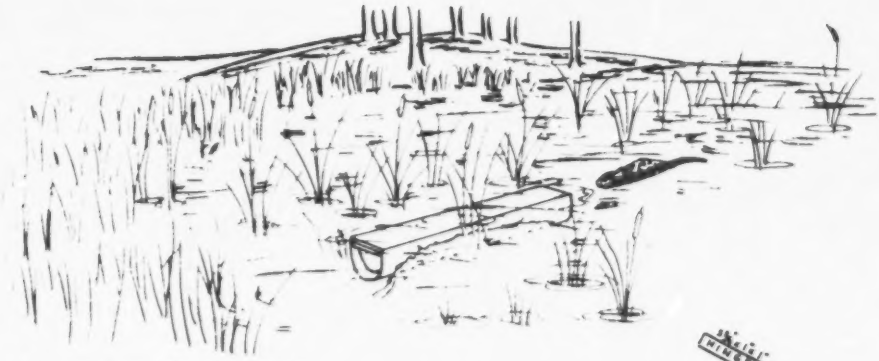
EXPERIMENTAL TRAPLINE UNDER-ICE
GREEN POLE MUSKRAT SET



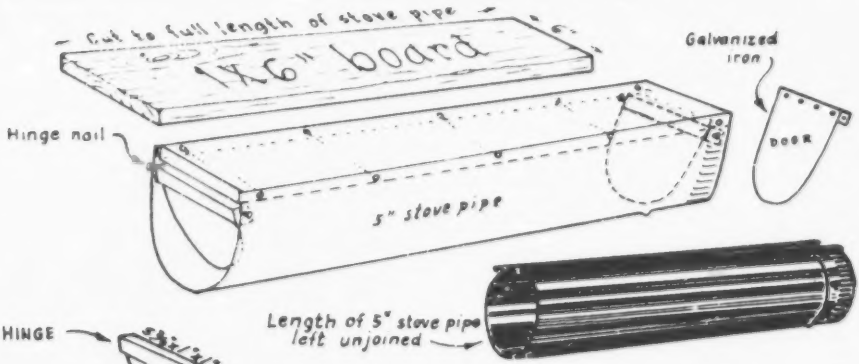
DIRECTIONS: *Cut green one inch thick poplar or willow. Measure water depth on a slope with pole and mark depth below mark-so trap is 4" below ice. Cut each side as in (1) then force knife point through to make a slot in pole as in (2). Next force the pointed end of trap base into slot which will act as holder for trap as in (3). Fasten chain to bottom part of pole (4) to speed drowning.*



EXPERIMENTAL TRAPLINE
MUSKRAT RUNWAY TRAP



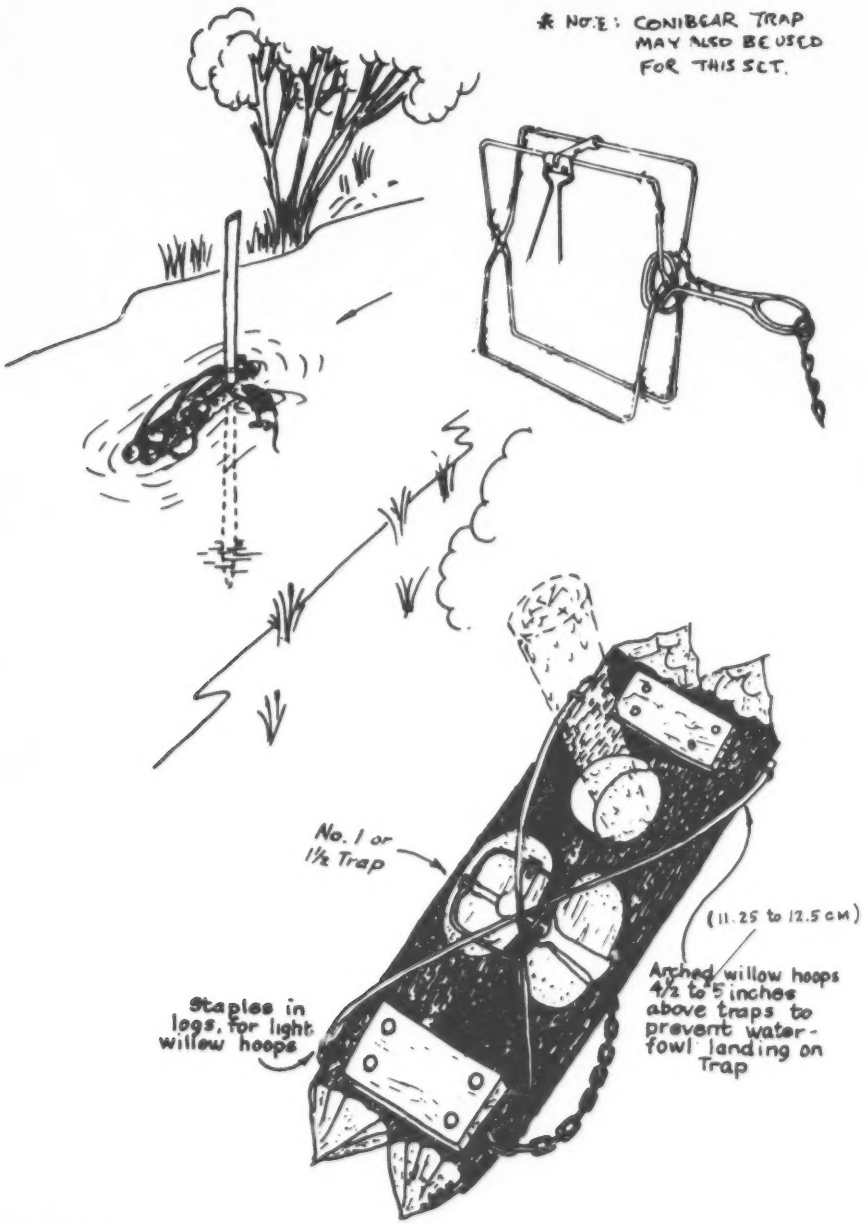
Place trap in muskrat runway, under water



Door is longer than opening as shown, will open in, but not out
Muskrats may enter, but cannot get out

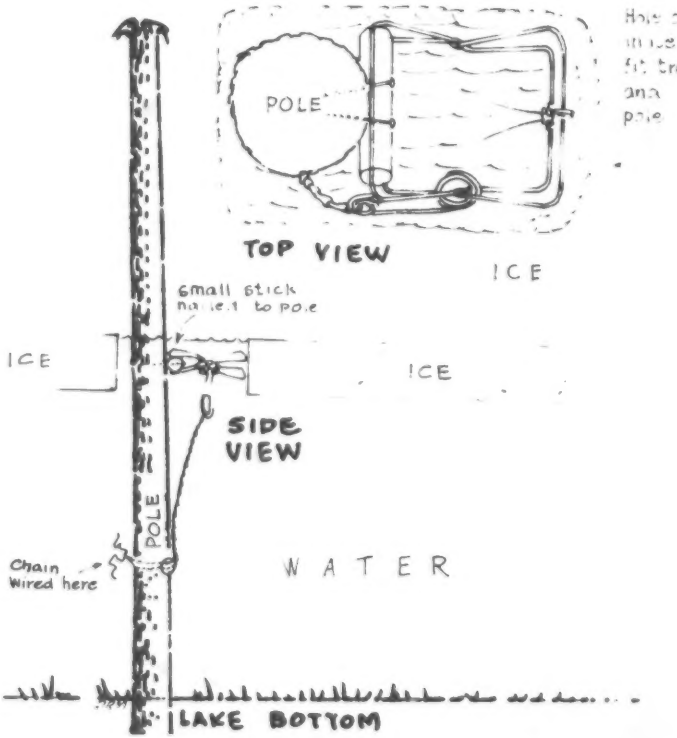
Cheaply made Repeater-killer

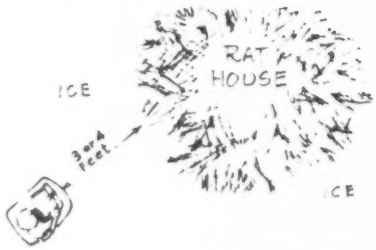
MUSKRAT FLOAT SET


* NOTE: CONIBEAR TRAP MAY ALSO BE USED FOR THIS SET.
No. 1 or 1½ Trap
(11.25 to 12.5 cm)
Arched willow hoops 4½ to 5 inches above traps to prevent waterfowl landing on Trap
Staples in logs, for light willow hoops

MANITOBA TRAPPER EDUCATION

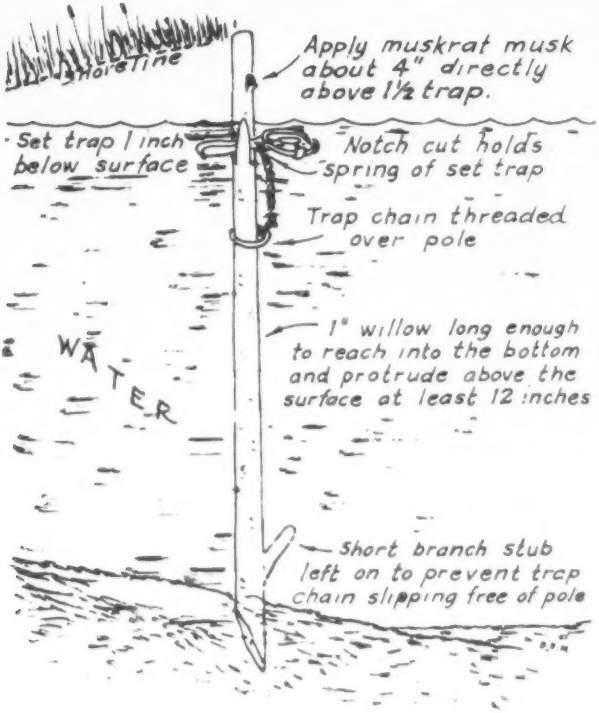
Don Catcheway #110 Conibear Muskrat Set (with John Donald modification)

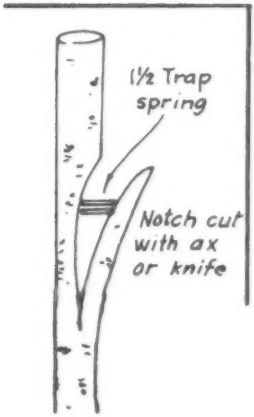




1. Set in water not less than one foot deep. Three or four feet from rat house
2. Always have set facing rat house
3. Can be set near beaver lodge too
4. Use a dry pole when setting in beaver country
5. When trap snaps, the jaws come free from the pole and the muskrat hangs below the frost line

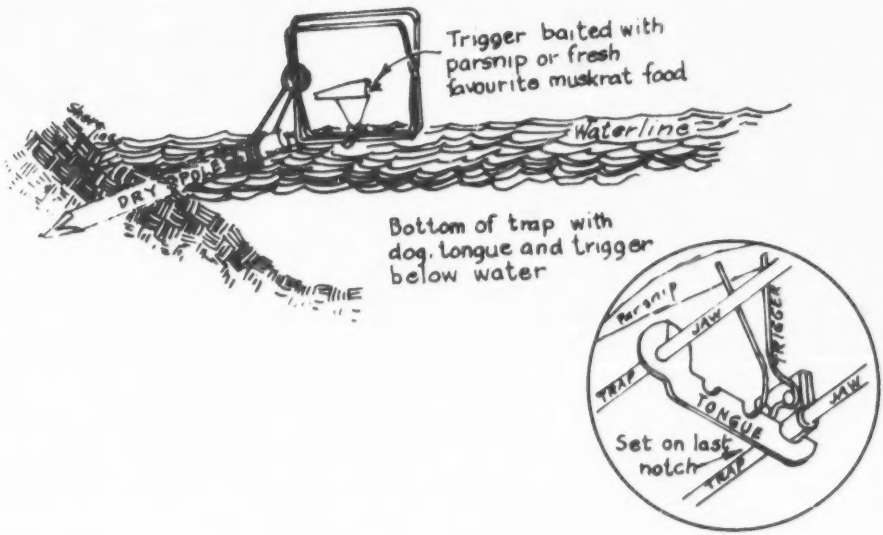
ALEX DUMAS' OPEN-WATER MUSKRAT SET


Shoreline
Apply muskrat musk about 4" directly above 1½ trap.
Set trap 1 inch below surface
Notch cut holds spring of set trap
Trap chain threaded over pole
1" willow long enough to reach into the bottom and protrude above the surface at least 12 inches
WATER
Short branch stub left on to prevent trap chain slipping free of pole

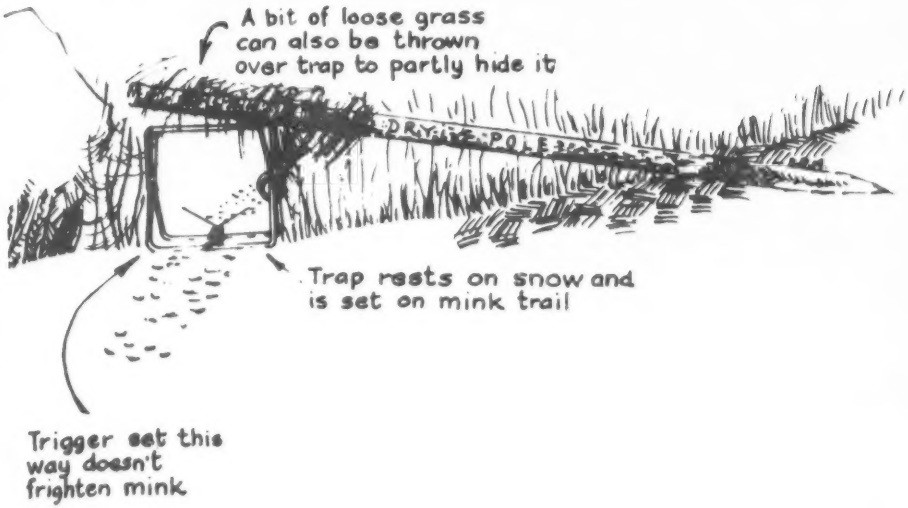


NOTE: Muskrat will try to climb onto trap to reach scent lure. When sprung trap falls free of holding notch and rat drowns.

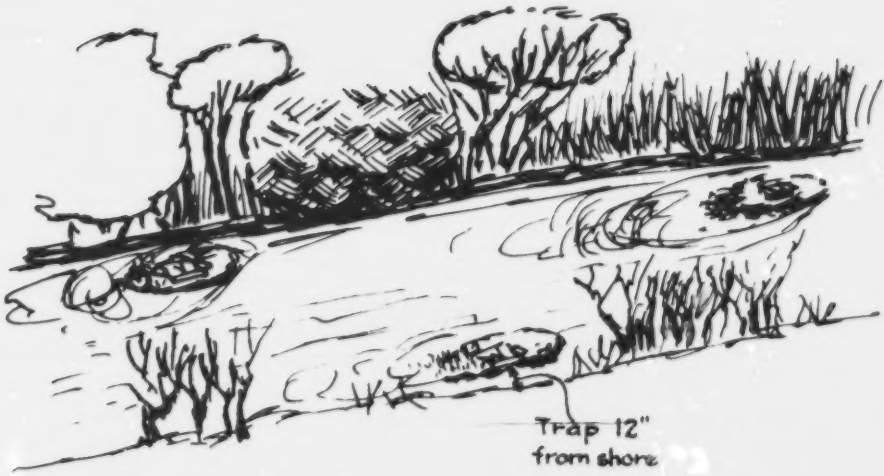
DAVE NASH CONIBEAR MUSKRAT SET



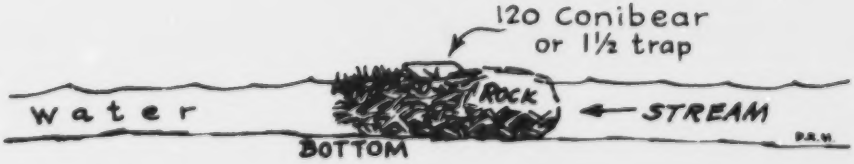
DAVE NASH CONIBEAR MINK SET


A bit of loose grass can also be thrown over trap to partly hide it
DRY SIDE POLE
Trap rests on snow and is set on mink trail
Trigger set this way doesn't frighten mink

EXPERIMENTAL TRAPLINE
ISLAND MINK SET

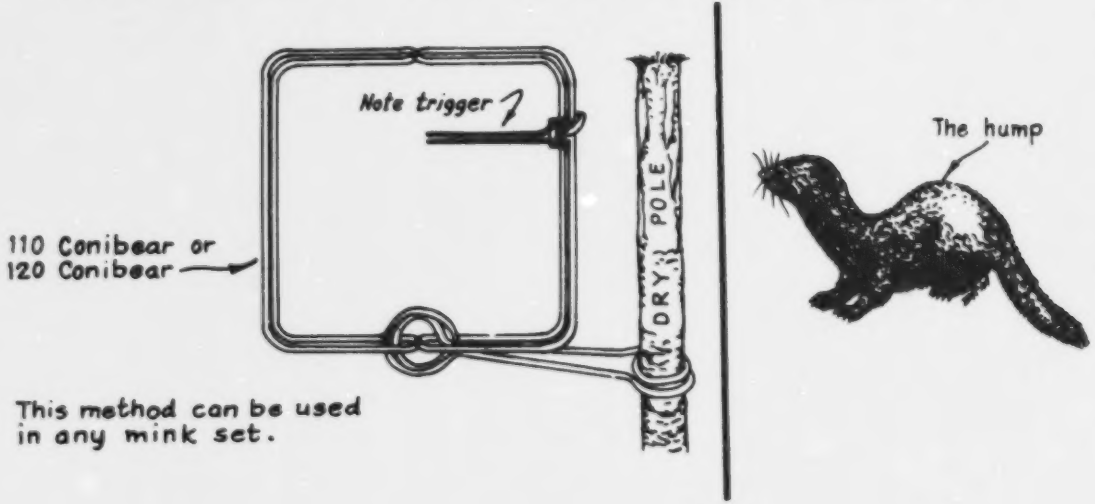


Find natural islands or construct them with rocks, clods of root filled mud, and wild grass sod.



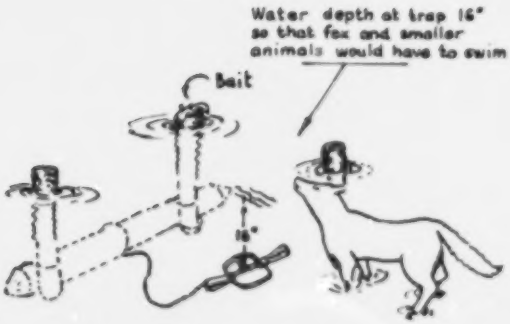
Wm. ANAKA ~ CONIBEAR MINK TRAP METHOD

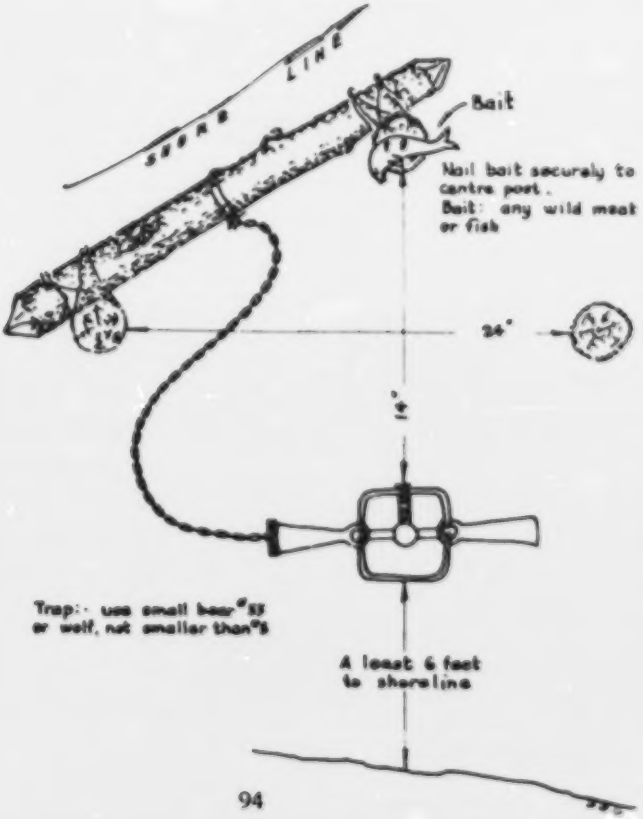
This illustration is meant to show the trigger position in the mink set. Bill claims that the mink does not like to push the trigger with its chest but as it runs with a hump back, it will set the trigger off with this hump.



This method can be used in any mink set.

HILMER HANSON WOLF SET

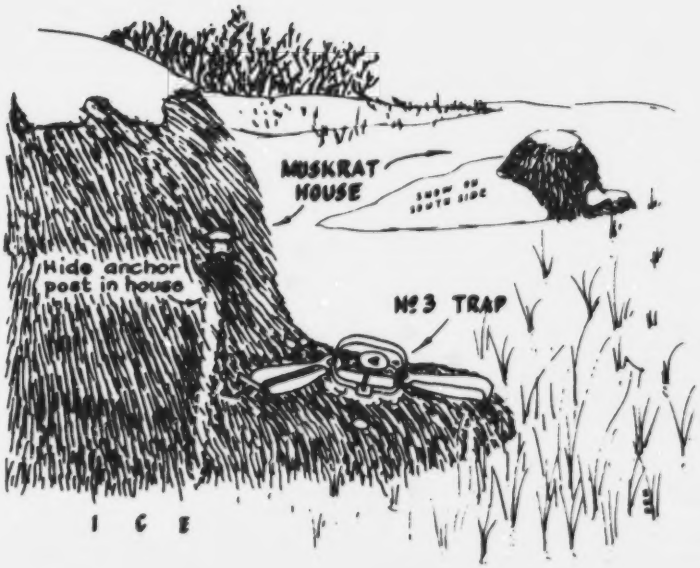




RALPH BRYENTON~ FOX AND COYOTE SHORE SET

Around the lakes where cattails grow, you often find gaps between clumps of cattail or between shore and clumps of cattail. Any narrow gap can be brushed off early in fall and small willows driven in from which to anchor the snare. Fox and coyotes are readily taken in this set.

RALPH BRYENTON ~ FOX AND COYOTE
MUSKRAT HOUSE SET



On most muskrat houses there is a natural step on the side. If this step is not there one can be made from moss or grass from the house. Hide the trap stake inside the house so it is solid. Set trap on step, (on the north side of house if possible, as snow tends to pile on south) and cover it by tucking moss around the pan but not under it, nor over the jaws. Once a fox is taken in this set, the scent he leaves will often bring more foxes No bait is necessary but a fox dropping or two often helps.

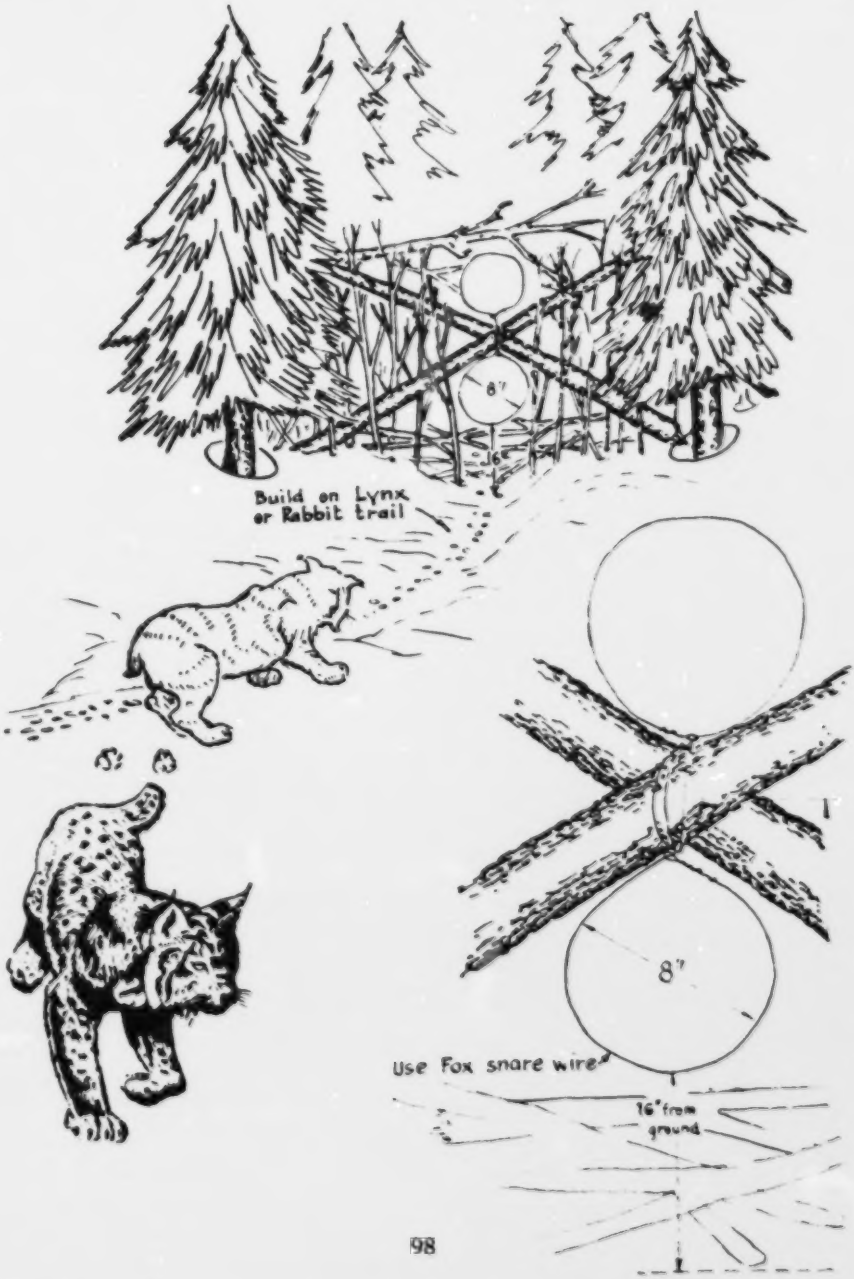
Note: Be sure the step is high enough so that a few inches of slush will not freeze the trap out.

RALPH BRYENTON - FOX AND COYOTE BEAVER DAM SET

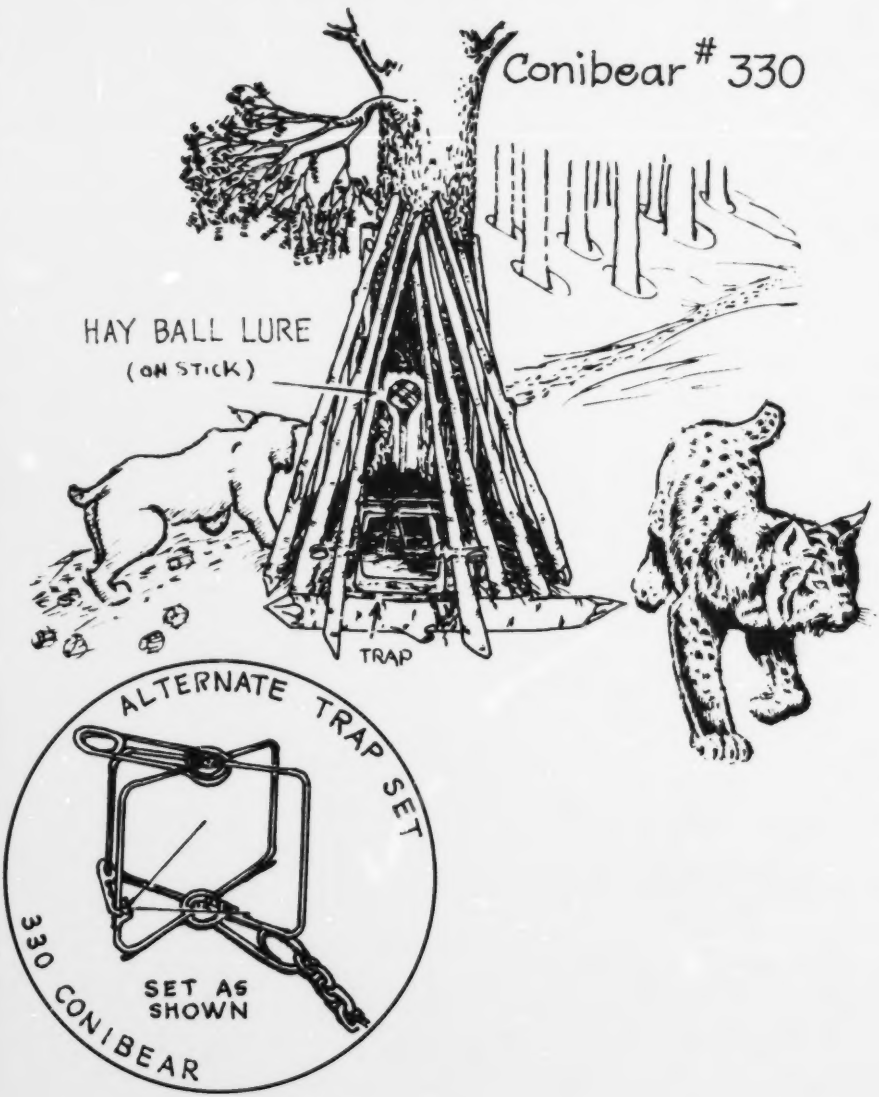
Set trap on beaver dam, close to where water spills over and where an animal crossing the dam would naturally step. Bait of fish or feathers can be used. You can also set a trap on each side if you wish. Anchor the trap solidly to a stake driven in to resemble a natural part of the dam, or a long pole can be used providing it is placed to look like part of the dam. This set is good for coyote, fox, lynx, mink and otter. Because of the different animals you may catch in this set - Traps used should not be smaller than a strong number 3

Tissue paper
Dry grass
No 3 Trap
Place trap in natural depression, using dry grass as bed. cover lightly with tissue paper, then cover with light layer of snow or dry rotted material from near by.

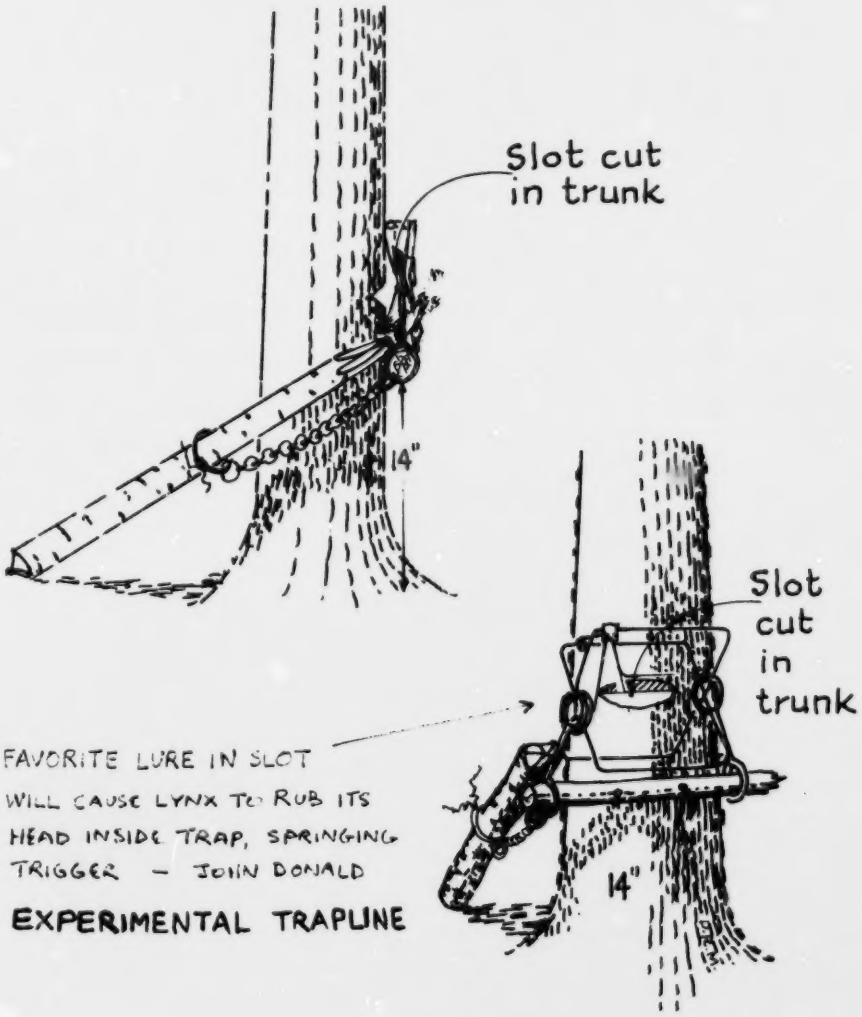
ROD GARRIOCH LYNX SNARE SET



LYNX CUBBY SET



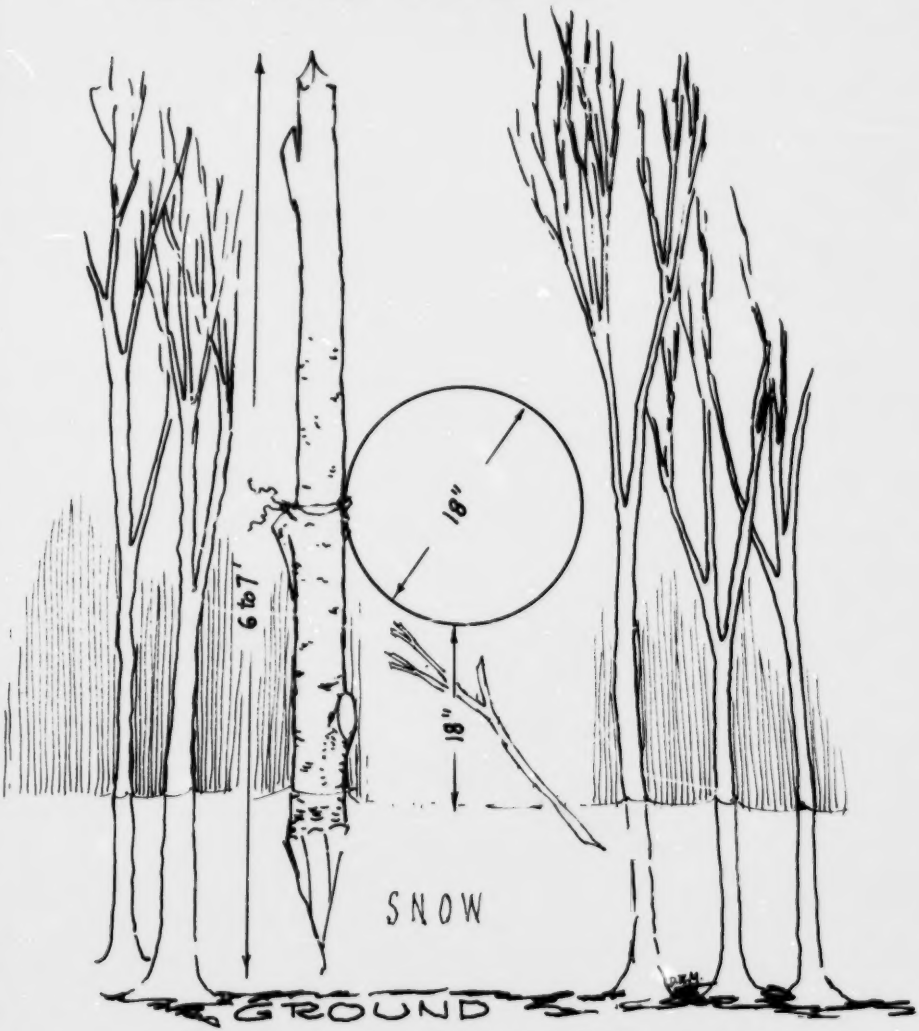
JOHN DONALD LYNX SET
with
330 Conibear trap



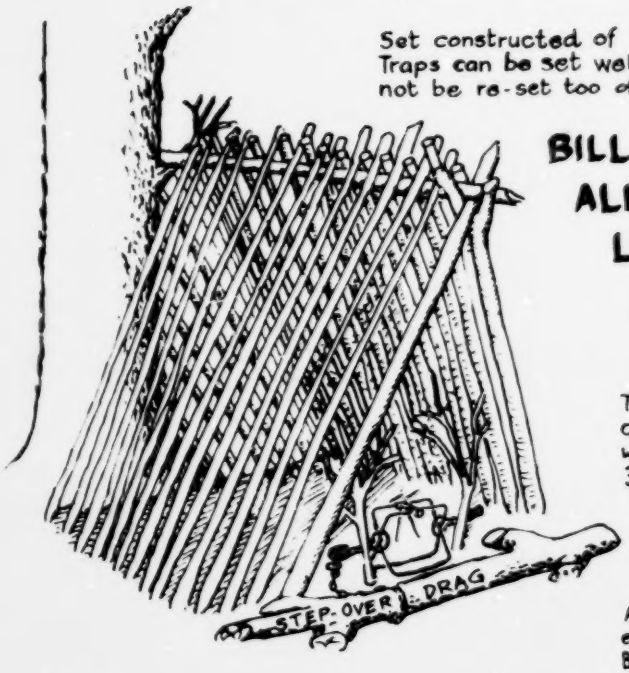
FAVORITE LURE IN SLOT
WILL CAUSE LYNX TO RUB ITS HEAD INSIDE TRAP, SPRINGING TRIGGER – JOHN DONALD

EXPERIMENTAL TRAPLINE

JOE ZIMMERMAN
TIMBER WOLF SNARE SET



JOE ZIMMERMAN HAS TAKEN MORE THAN 1000 WOLVES IN THIS SET. HEIGHT OF SNARE IS 18" TO SOLID FOOTING.



Set constructed of poles 4' (1.2 M) long
Traps can be set well in and need not be re-set too often

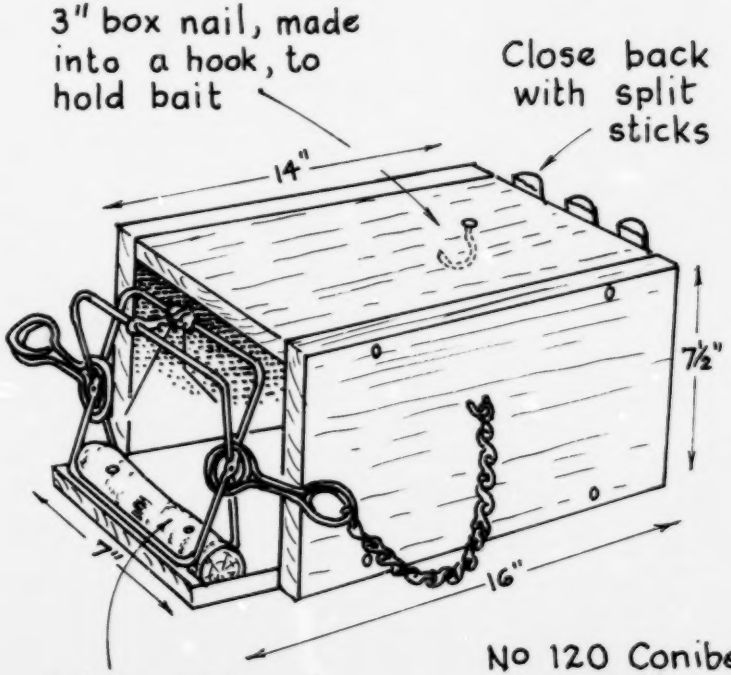
BILL PAYNE ALL WEATHER LYNX AND FISHER SET

This set can also catch wolverine when trap is a 330 Conibear

220 or 330 CONIBEAR

A gift to trappers everywhere from Bill Payne, Vavenby B.C.

BILL DAHL Nº 120 CONIBEAR MINK CUBBY SET

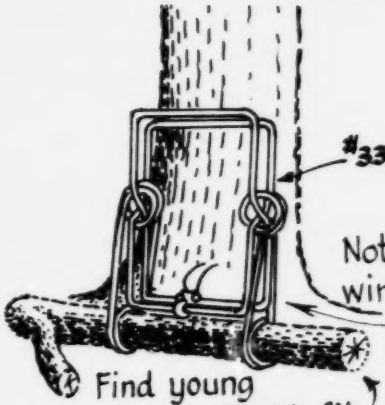

3" box nail, made into a hook, to hold bait
Close back with split sticks
14"
7½"
7"
16"
Stick, width of trap jaws when set, nailed to platform.

No 120 Conibear Mink Cubby set.

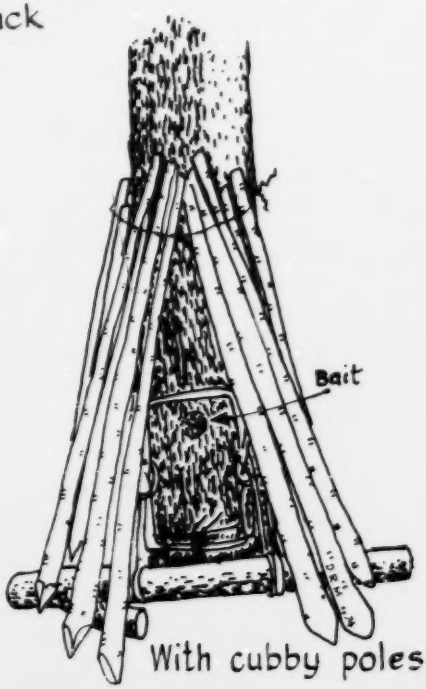
Bill Dahl is a Manitoba Registered trapper living at The Pas.

WOLVERINE CUBBY SET

GEORGE WASHINGTON HAINES JTN., YUKON

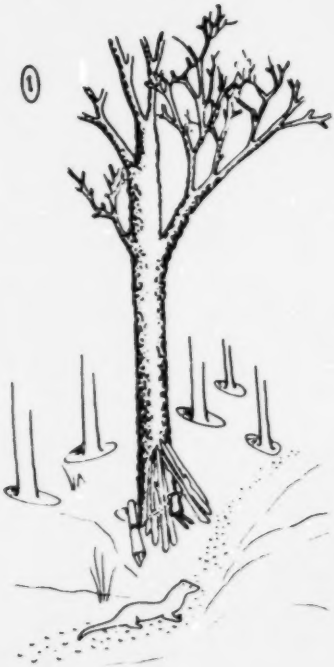


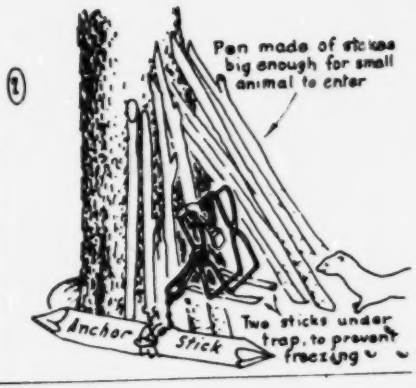
Shown before placement of cubby poles

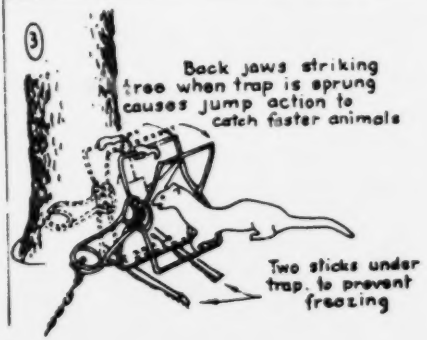


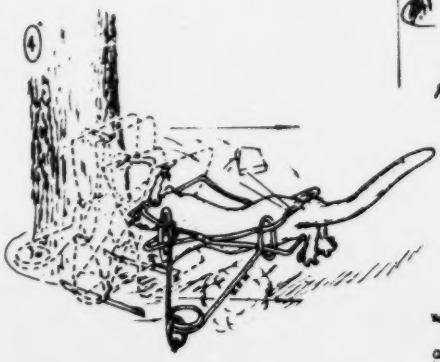
With cubby poles

#110 CONIBEAR SMALL-ANIMAL JUMP SET






3
Back jaws striking tree when trap is sprung causes jump action to catch faster animals
Two sticks under trap, to prevent freezing



In making this set, choose a spot where the animal travels.

To protect from birds and other animals a pen of poles sloping from the tree to the ground can be built leaving an opening large enough to admit the animal the trap is intended to catch

Trap can be baited with fish rabbit, or other lures which the particular trapper might favour.

EXPERIMENTAL TRAPLINE ERMINE ANT HILL SET

With № 110 Conibear

NOTE: *Inside of ant hill is porous and easily scooped out when frozen. Make opening (1) only large enough to admit №110 trap (2). Make long hallway (3) with inner chamber to hold bait (4).*

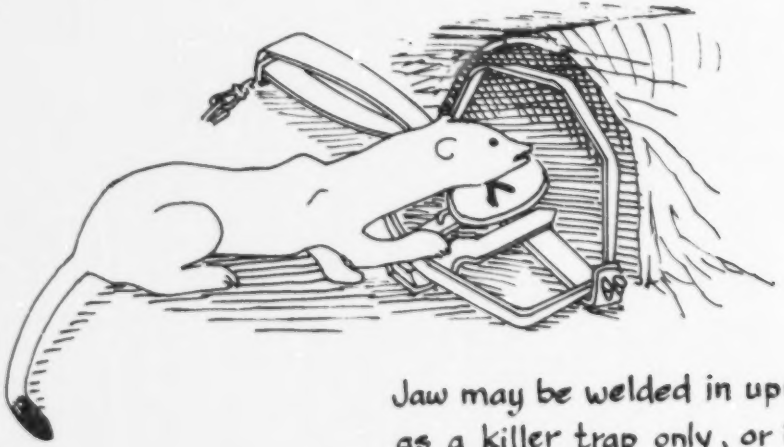
Drive stake (5) through ant hill to anchor trap chain - this prevents ermine from leaving ant hill and possibly being destroyed by winged predators.

MANITOBA TRAPPER EDUCATION

FROM PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Humane method of using foot hold traps on small animals ~ CUBBY or TUNNEL SET

Free jaw in upright position



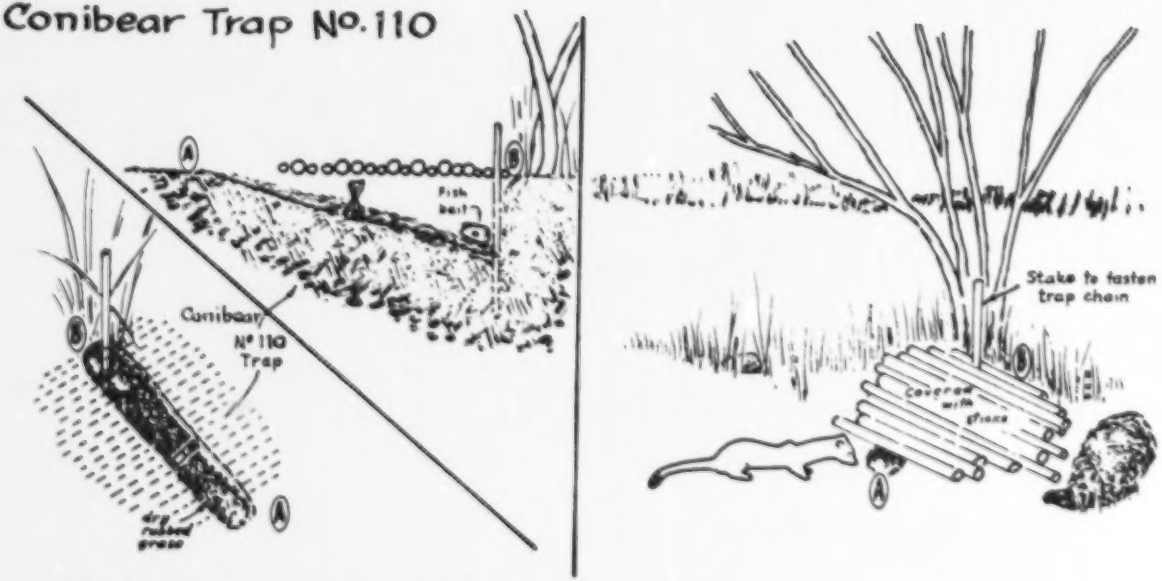
Bait

Jaw may be welded in upright position for use as a killer trap only, or it may be held up by placing a twig or small nail in frame.

Size 1 or 1½ for squirrel and weasel
Size 1½ for marten
Size 3 and 4 for marten and mink

EXPERIMENTAL TRAPLINE ERMINE GROUND HOLE SET

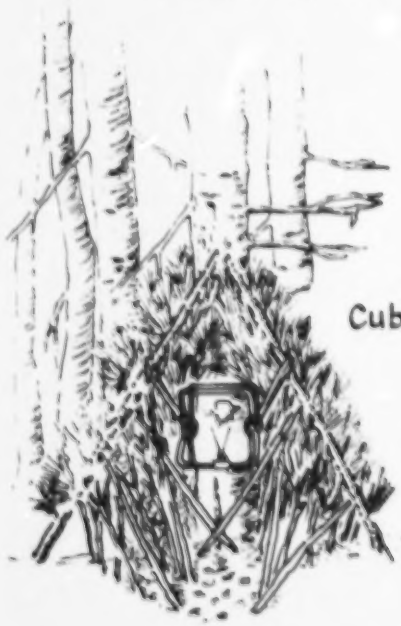
Conibear Trap No. 110



NOTE: This set can be made anywhere that ermine travel. In a likely spot chop a deepening hole as illustrated. This may be from 0" (0 cm) deep at one end (A) to 10" (25 cm) deep at the other end (B) and 4" (10 cm) wide. Set with No 110 trap and fasten with a stake at deep end. Cover bottom of hole with finely rubbed dry grass. Bait with fish. Cover with sticks to keep out winged predators.

MANITOBA TRAPPER EDUCATION

FROM PROVINCE OF ALBERTA



LYNX SET BRITSH COLUMBIA

Beaver meat for bait

Cubby 3' front to back

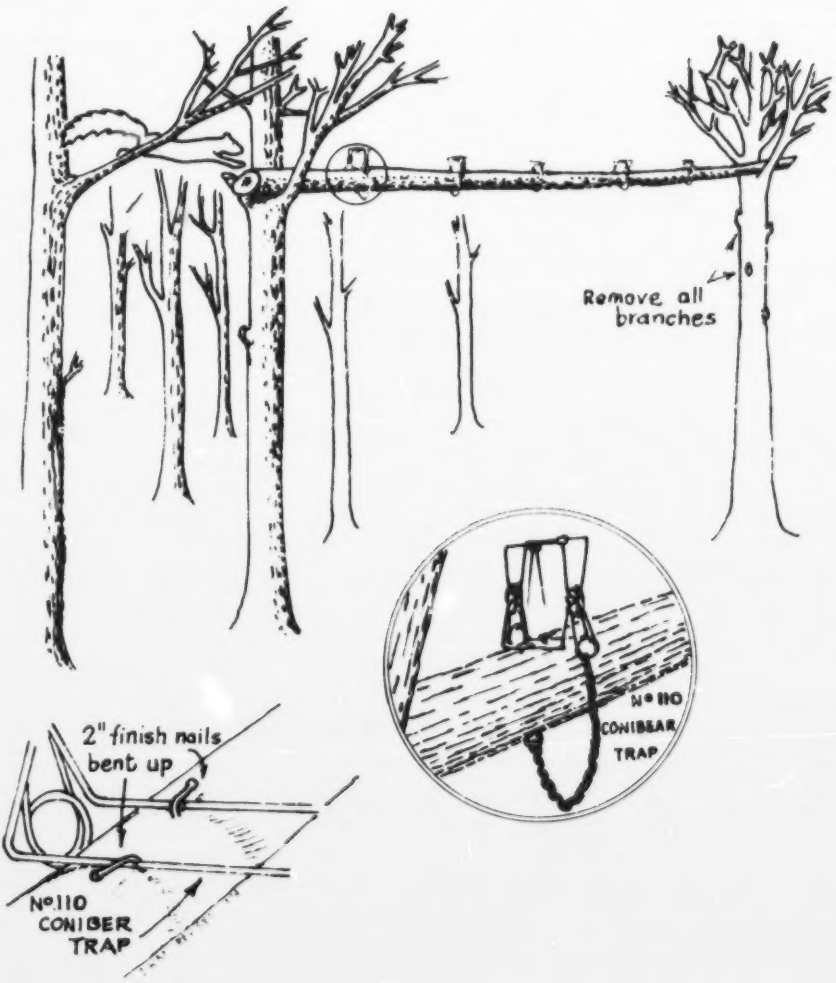
LYNX LURE

Two pair of beaver castors
two pounds of lynx meat or liver
mix and add a bit of catnip

330 Conibear. 10" off snow

601

EXPERIMENTAL TRAPLINE SQUIRREL SET



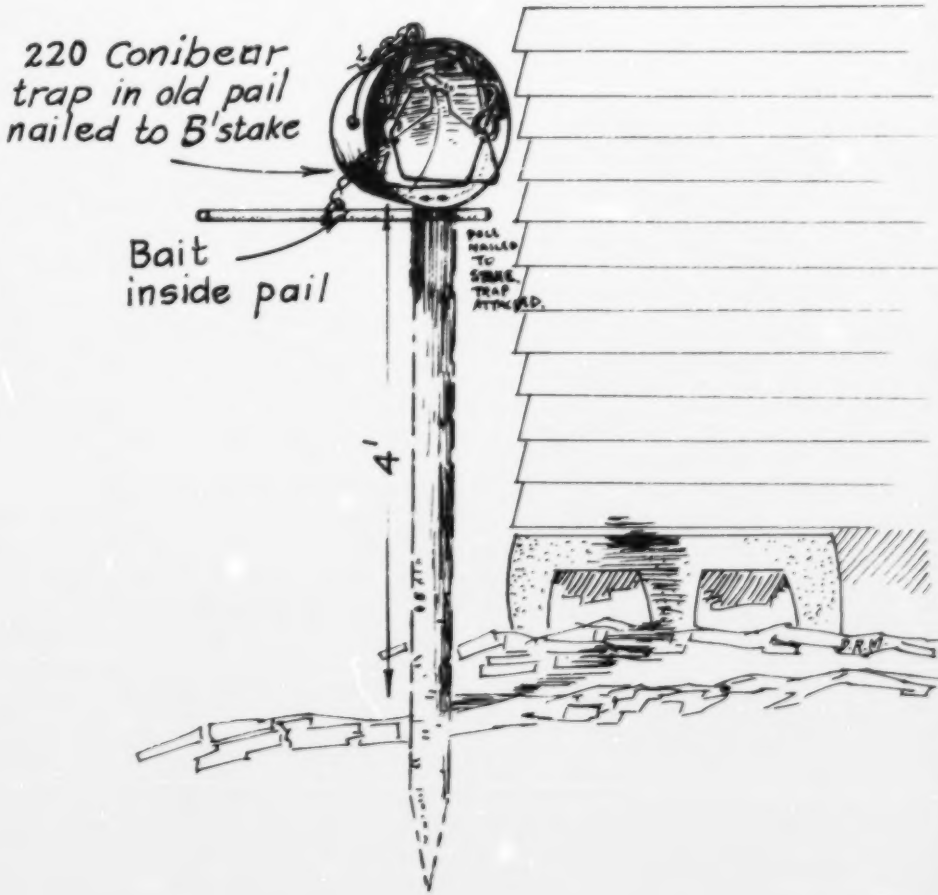
#110 CONIBEAR RUN-WAY SET, FOR WEASEL, MINK AND SQUIRREL

Note:
As this is an open set it should be checked daily

TRIGGER WIRES SHOULD BE BENT - ONE VERTICAL AND IN THE CENTRE OF RUNWAY, THE OTHER HORIZONTAL AND CLEAR OF THE RUNWAY. THE ANIMAL APPEARS TO IGNORE THE SINGLE WIRE BUT SOMETIMES SHIES AWAY FROM THE DOUBLE TRIGGER. SET FOR HAIR-TRIGGER ACTION

DON McCREA EXPERIMENTAL TRAPLINE

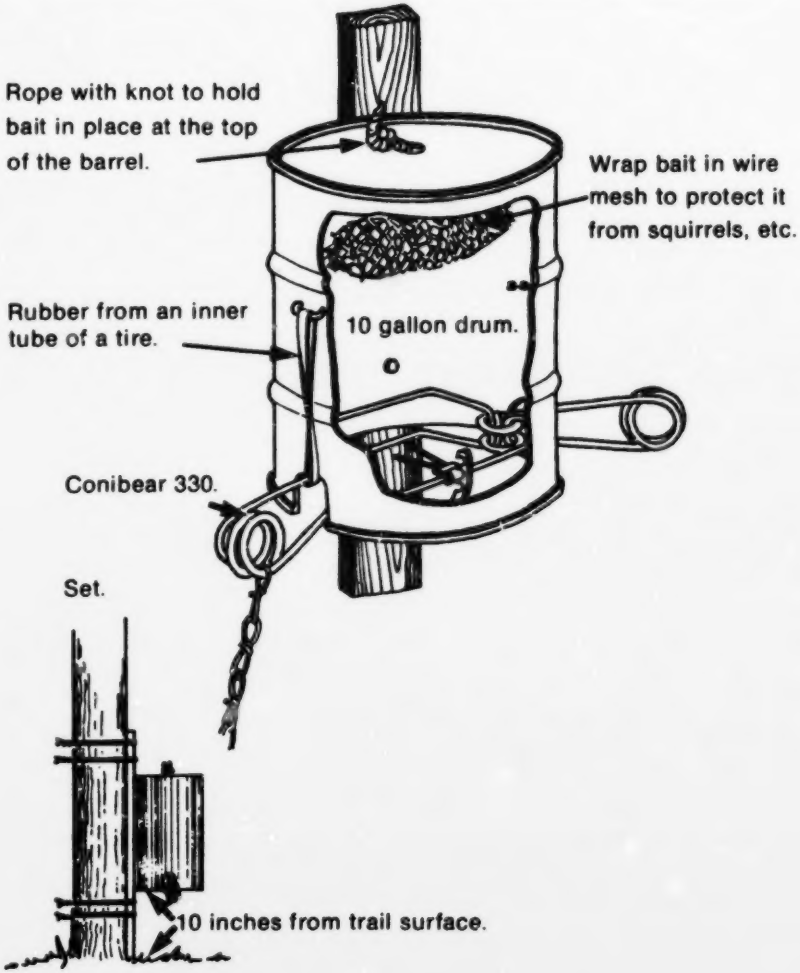
DOG PROOF SKUNK AND RACCOON SET



LLOYD COOK CONIBEAR RACCOON SET

'Along a stream where raccoon travel, make a hole about ten inches wide, ten inches high and fourteen inches deep, back into the stream bank and not too far above the waterline. Bait the back end of the hole with smelly fish or half a muskrat carcass. A conibear No222 set in the mouth of the hole with the trigger in a 'T'at the bottom will give a fast, clean kill and not damage the pelt'

ERNIE WRIGHT
HUMANE WOLVERINE AND RACCOON SET


Rope with knot to hold bait in place at the top of the barrel.
Wrap bait in wire mesh to protect it from squirrels, etc.
Rubber from an inner tube of a tire.
10 gallon drum.
Conibear 330.
Set.
10 inches from trail surface.

This set should be placed near the trapper's trail. The bottom of the barrel should be no more than ten inches from the trail surface for wolverine, seven or eight inches for raccoon. Bait should be fish, meat or anything you know would attract the animal.

Let us hope you continue to send in your ideas, that these ideas benefit other trappers, and until our next revision of the trapper's guide . . Good Luck along the trapline.